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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-136
Monday
19 July 1993

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-136 CONTENTS *19 July 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

- Baltic, Black Sea Countries Propose Oil Meeting *[RID]* ... 1
- Baltic, Black Sea Groups Issue Statement on Sevastopol *[Kiev International]* ... 1
- ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Jul ... 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yastrzhembskiy's 'Last Briefing' *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 3
  - Warns Against Ukraine Owning Nuclear Arms *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 3
  - Ukraine 'Trying To Become a Nuclear Power' *[AFP]* ... 3
  - Welcomes UN Resolution on Angola *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 3
  - Commends Successful Conclusion to Haiti Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 3
  - Says Latvia's Territorial Claims 'Ungrounded' *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 4
- Chernomyrdin Concludes Extended Visit to Germany ... 4
  - Meets Premier of Brandenburg Land *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 4
  - Meets Russian Troops in Wuensdorf *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 4
  - Extends Visit One Day *[Moscow Radio]* ... 5
  - Contract Signed for Construction in Siberia *[Moscow Radio]* ... 5
  - Arrives in Moscow; Interviewed at Airport *[Russian TV]* ... 5
- Kozyrev Meets With German Prime Minister in Munich ... 5
  - Discusses Cooperation, Germany's Role in UN *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
  - Views Results of Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
  - Departure Delayed by Plane Mishap *[Hamburg DPA]* ... 6
- Agreement Concluded With U.S. on Missile Technology *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 6
  - Russia Not To Give India Technology *[Moscow International]* ... 6
- Chernomyrdin To Visit U.S. Within 'Next Few Weeks' *[Moscow Radio]* ... 6
- Space Agency Signs Cooperation Agreement With NASA *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 6
- Recent Cases Show Spying Persists; U.S. Accused *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* ... 7
- Further Coverage of Tajik-Afghan Border Incident ... 7
  - No Confirmation of Attacks *[IZVESTIYA 17 Jul]* ... 7
  - Grachev To Visit Border *[Radio Rossii]* ... 8
  - Grachev Visits, Returns *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 8
  - Rutskoy Issues Statement on Attack *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* ... 8
  - Government Vows To Stop Border Provocations *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 9
  - Deputies Urge Continued Military Support *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 9
- Abartsumov Airs Views on Sevastopol Situation *[Moscow TV]* ... 9
- Churkin Meets Serbian Krajina Leader in Knin *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 10
  - Meets Izetbegovic in Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 10
- Moscow Signs Economic Cooperation Treaty With Lithuania *[Radio Rossii]* ... 10
- Poland Rumored To Halt Ostankino TV Relays 1 Aug *[Moscow TV]* ... 10
- General Positively Assesses Ties With Poland *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Jul]* ... 11
- 5-Year Freeze on Talks With Japan Proposed *[Tokyo KYODO]* ... 12
- Moscow Reports Chinese Response on Ship Incident *[Moscow International]* ... 12
- Shakhray Says Chinese National Policy 'Merits Attention' *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 12
- Report on Negotiations With Mongolia in Krasnoyarsk *[Radio Rossii]* ... 13
- Problems Surrounding Western Aid Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jul]* ... 13
- Europarliamentarians Lack 'Objective Picture' of Russia *[PRAVDA 17 Jul]* ... 15

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

- Kozyrev on Foreign Policy, Western Aid *[Moscow TV]* ... 16
- Yeltsin Signs Decree on People's Friendship Award *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 17

Democratic Party Announces Plans for Multi-Party Bloc *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Civic Union: Events in Regions 'Warning' to Moscow *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jul]* 17
    Attacks Foreign Policy 'Flops' *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Democrats Criticize Polyanichko, Government Appointments *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 17 Jul]* . 18
Parliament Opposition's Meeting With Zorkin Viewed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 16 Jul]* 19
Deputy Security Minister on Past Terrorism *[Moscow TV]* 19
Press House Protests 'Criminal Insinuations' *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 22
Media Workers Plan Protests Against 'Watchdog Boards' *[ITAR-TASS]* 23

Economic Issues

Ruble's 'Unexpected Doggedness' Against Dollar Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* 23
Dangers Seen in Freeing Energy Prices *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 16 Jul]* 24
Commission To Coordinate Coal, Metal Pricing Policy *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 25
Land Inventory To Be Drawn Up for Possible Allotting *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Head of New Taxation Police Service Outlines Duties *[Russian TV]* 26
Independent Unions Insist on Talks With Government *[ITAR-TASS]* 26

Military Issues

Shaposhnikov on Collective Security Concept *[Moscow Radio]* 26
    Further on Concept of Security *[Radio Rossii]* 27
    Wants Wider Powers for Security Council *[Russian TV]* 28
    General on Condition of Army *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 17 Jul]* 28
Grachev Interviewed on Armed Forces Situation *[Russian TV]* 28
Grachev Speaks to Army Education Staff *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Jul]* 29
News Conference Details Army Draft Problems *[Moscow TV]* 31
    Armed Forces Facing Shortage *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 31
Yeltsin Edict on Drafting Reserve Officers *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Jul]* 32
Yeltsin Calls For Space Research, Production Center *[Moscow International]* 32

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Votes To Increase Defense Allocations *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Khasbulatov Refutes Privatization Ban Report *[Radio Rossii]* 32
Constitutional Conference Draft Given 'Auxiliary' Role *[IZVESTIYA 17 Jul]* 32
Parliament Passes Constitution Adoption Law *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* 33
Sixth Session To Continue for 'Another Week' *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Statement Issued on End To Attacks in Tajikistan *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* 34
Khasbulatov Fears 'Unexpected' During Recess *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* 34
Panel Head Criticizes Government Handling of Budget Law *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jul]* .. 35

Regional Affairs

Rutskoy Attends Blagoveshchensk Celebrations *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
    Arrives in Khabarovsk *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
    Cited on Ending Economic 'Crisis' *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Yeltsin Representative Hits Rutskoy's Abusive Words *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 15 Jul]* 36
Shokhin Completes Visit to Western Siberia *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
    Further Shokhin Comment *[Russian TV]* 37
Khasbulatov Addresses District Councils Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Official on Future of Kaliningrad Oblast *[Russian TV]* 38
    To Introduce Immigration Quota *[Vilnius Radio]* 38
Situation in Ossetia, Ingushetia 'Remains Complex' *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Tyumen Oblast Chief Refuses To Sign Draft Constitution *[Moscow Radio]* 39
Chelyabinsk To Hold Referendum on Republic Issue *[Russian TV]* 39
Buryatia Urges 'No Haste' in Adopting New Constitution *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Mordovia Dismantles Presidency Ahead of Court Hearings *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Nizhniy Novgorod Officials on Arms Fair *[Moscow TV]* 40

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Reaction to Russian Parliament Sevastopol Resolution 43
    Zlenko Appeals for UNSC Session *[UKRINFORM]* 43

Parliament Demands Withdrawal of Russian Troops *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Jul]* 43
Envoy Hands Resolution to Khasbulatov *[UNIAN]* 44
Naval Commander Affirms Status *[Kiev International]* 44
Situation in Sevastopol 'Becoming Explosive' *[Moscow TV]* 44
Assembly Demands Russian Status *[Moscow TV]* 44
People's Council Elected *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Assembly Leader Interviewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* 45
Kiev Rally Denounces Resolution on Sevastopol *[UNIAN]* 45
Adopts Resolution *[UNIAR]* 46
Parties Condemn Russian Parliament's Decision on Sevastopol *[Kiev International]* 46
Dnieper Area Parties, Movements Issue Appeal *[Kiev International]* 46
Rukh Criticizes Fleet Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Paper Details Kravchuk Visit to Nuclear Missile Base *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 13 Jul]* 47
Strategic Missile Regiment Removed From Alert Status *[Moscow Radio]* 47
Russia Presents Initiative on Maintaining Nuclear Warheads *[Kiev International]* 47
Kravchuk Sees Possibility of New Union of States *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 17 Jul]* 48
Turkey, Ukraine Sign Military Cooperation Memorandum *[UKRINFORM]* 48
UN Peacekeeping Force in Bosnia Being Replaced *[ITAR-TASS]* 48

National Affairs

Kuchma Makes Appeal to Agricultural Workers *[UKRINFORM]* 48
Plyushch, Kuchma in Crimea for Holidays *[Kiev International]* 49
Transport-Related Crime Statistics Published *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 13 Jul]* 49
Counterfeit Dollars Confiscated in Dnepropetrovsk *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 13 Jul]* ... 49
New Party of Solidarity, Social Justice Created *[KHRESHCHATYK 15 Jul]* 50
Communist Party Central Committee Plenum Held 17 Jul *[Kiev International]* 50
Party Proposes Cossack Unit To Join Armed Forces *[Kiev International]* 50

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

New Candidate Named in Presidential Race *[Moscow TV]* 51
Inventory of Arms, Military Property Planned *[Minsk Radio]* 51

Moldova

Russia Grants Financial Aid to Dniester *[BASAPRESS]* 51
Dniester Faces Trade Deficit *[BASAPRESS]* 51
Russian Rocket Brigade Withdraws From Tighina *[BASAPRESS]* 51
Tiraspol Claims 14th Army Military Hardware *[BASAPRESS]* 52
Lebed Accuses Dniester Leadership of Criminal Ties *[BASAPRESS]* 52
14th Army Department Investigated for Embezzlement *[BASAPRESS]* 52
Snegur Discusses Economic Ties, Dniester in Romania *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Snegur Promises Protection of Ethnic Rights *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
German Official Arrives, Seeks Improved Ties *[BASAPRESS]* 53
Ukrainian, Moldovan Security Services Unite To Combat Crime *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Ethnic Ukrainians Seek Ukrainian Citizenship *[BASAPRESS]* 53
Dniester Soviet To Discuss Language Law *[BASAPRESS]* 54
Ribnita Restarts Armaments Production *[BASAPRESS]* 54
Dniester Industrial, Enterprise Association Established *[BASAPRESS]* 54
Dniester Refugees To Be Given Apartments *[BASAPRESS]* 54
Military Pensions To Be Withheld From Non-Citizens *[BASAPRESS]* 54
Deputy Andronic Calls For New Elections *[BASAPRESS]* 55
Statistics Department Reports Drop in Production *[BASAPRESS]* 55
Foreign Trade Exchanges Register Negative Balance *[BASAPRESS]* 55
Deputy Criticizes Law on Foreign Investments *[BASAPRESS]* 55

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Issues Resolution on Joint Stock Companies *[KAZTAG]* 56

- Government, Unions Issue Joint Declaration on Cooperation *[KAZTAG]* 56
- Cabinet, National Bank Endorse Resolution on Currency *[Almaty Radio]* 57
- Coal Mining Under Way After Closure of Nuclear Test Site *[Almaty Radio]* 57
- Paper Views Financial Relations With Russia, CIS *[IZVESTIYA 17 Jul]* 57

Kyrgyzstan

- Former Official's Departure for Russia Causes 'Great Stir' *[ITAR-TASS]* 58

Tajikistan

- Abdullodzhanov Interviewed on Border Situation *[Moscow TV]* 58
- Grachev Arrives in Dushanbe, Discusses Border Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
  - Vows 'Destruction' of 'Enemy' *[Moscow TV]* 64
  - Confers With Military Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
  - Promises 'Appropriate Measures' *[Moscow Radio]* 64
  - Task Force To Coordinate Joint Actions *[ITAR-TASS]* 65
- Military Leaders Remark on Security Needs *[ITAR-TASS]* 65
- Russian Deputies View Border Situation *[Moscow TV]* 65
- Rakhmanov Sends Condolence Message to Yeltsin *[Dushanbe Radio]* 66
- Rakhmanov Appeals to UN on Border Attacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
- Tajik-Afghan Situation Continues To Be 'Complicated' *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
  - Situation 'Extremely Anxious' *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
  - Border Raids Thwarted *[ITAR-TASS]* 66
- Opposition Forces Increasing Activity Against Government *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
- 'Fierce Fighting' Reported in Khorog *[Russian TV]* 67
- Rally in Badakhshan Protests Local Authorities' Inaction *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 17 Jul]* 67
- Tajik Communist Party Statement on Border Incident *[Dushanbe Radio]* 68
- Entry to Dushanbe 'By Special Permits' *[Moscow Radio]* 68
- Council of Ministers Adopts Resolution on Agriculture *[Dushanbe Radio]* 68

CAUCASUS

Armenia

- Border Attack Breaks 'Truce' on Karabakh Border *[ITAR-TASS]* 69
- Yerevan Updates Karabakh Fighting 15-16 Jul *[Yerevan Radio]* 69
- Armenian Village in Nagorno-Karabakh Under Attack *[ITAR-TASS]* 69
- No Alternative Seen to CSCE Solution for Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 69
- Referendum Proposal for Alliance With Russia Rejected *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
- Minister: 10,000 'Unregistered' Weapons in Yerevan *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
- Republic To Stay in Ruble Zone Despite Problems *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 70

Azerbaijan

- National Assembly Meets 16 Jul on Ganja Events 70
  - Ganja Garrison Official Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
  - Kamberov Refuses To Address Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
  - Speaker Seen Pressuring Deputies *[TURAN]* 71
  - Kamberov for Further Investigation *[ITAR-TASS]* 72
  - Leaders Blamed for 'Tragic Events' *[ITAR-TASS]* 72
  - Session 'Well-Rehearsed Performance' *[TURAN]* 72
  - Further on 16 Jul Session *[Baku TV]* 73
- Former Security Minister Takhmazov Arrested *[Russian TV]* 73
- Former Chairman Isa Kamberov Arrested *[Radio Rossii]* 73
  - Party Headquarters Searched *[TURAN]* 73
- Isa Kamberov Views Recent Governmental Changes *[TURAN]* 74
- 'Dozens' of Elchibey Supporters Arrested 17 Jul *[Moscow International]* 74
  - Popular Front Leadership Blamed *[Russian TV]* 74
  - Mission in Moscow Condemns Demonstration *[ITAR-TASS]* 74
- Defense Ministry Reports More Villages Shelled *[TURAN]* 75

Georgia

- Shevardnadze Comments on Letters From Clinton *[Tbilisi Radio]* 75
- Paper Highlights Russian Weapons Transfers *[7 DGHE 9-15 Jul]* 75

Shevardnadze Names New Council of Ministers Head *[Tbilisi Radio]* 76
  Bio on Shartava *[ITAR-TASS]* 76
  Shartava Interviewed *[Tbilisi Radio]* 77
Abkhazia Agrees to Cease-Fire Following Consultations *[ITAR-TASS]* 77
Russian, Georgian, Abkhaz Envoys Outline Positions *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* ... 78
Abkhazia: Russia Holds Key To End Conflict *[Radio Rossii]* 78
Abkhazia: Shevardnadze Clearing 'Obstructions' to Peace *[Moscow TV]* 79
Shevardnadze, Shartava Propose Abkhaz Demilitarization *[Tbilisi Radio]* 79
  Further on Demilitarization *[Radio Rossii]* 79
Military Captures Village, Moves Along Gumista River *[SNARK]* 79
  Forces Mount 'Offensive' *[ITAR-TASS]* 80
  Abkhaz Defense Ministry Denies Offensive *[Moscow Radio]* 80
  Sides Issue Conflicting Reports *[ITAR-TASS]* 80
Abkhaz Positions North of Sukhumi Shelled *[Moscow TV]* 80
  'Artillery Duels' Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 81

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Laar Comments on Upcoming Narva Referendum *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 82
  Referendum on Autonomy Under Way *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
  Ceding Narva Viewed *[BNS]* 82
  Prime Minister Makes Statement *[Tallinn Radio]* 83
  Referendum Proceeding 'Peacefully' *[Tallinn Radio]* 83
  Results of Narva, Sillamae Referendums *[ITAR-TASS]* 83
  Official Comments on Referendum *[Moscow Radio]* 83
  Foreign Ministry Claims Low Turnout *[ITAR-TASS]* 84
  Referendum Results Viewed *[Tallinn Radio]* 84
  Laar Expresses Gratitude for 'Restraint' *[Tallinn Radio]* 85
  Authorities Question Results *[ITAR-TASS]* 85
Russian Commander Refrains From Authorizing Arms *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Jul]* 85
Defense Forces on Possible Purchase of Czech Aircraft *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 86
NATO Official Ends Visit, Comments on Aid *[Tallinn Radio]* 86

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian Exercises *[LETA]* 86
Khasbulatov Sends Congratulations to Gorbunovs *[Riga Radio]* 87
Foreign Ministry Statement on Support for Estonia *[LETA]* 87
President Ulmanis Receives Estonian Ambassador *[Riga Radio]* 87
Saeima Approves Structure of New Cabinet *[LETA]* 87

Lithuania

President Defines Delegation's Authority in Russia Talks *[BNS]* 87
  Head of Delegation Holds News Conference *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 88
Brazauskas Says No Need for Withdrawal Treaty With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 88
'Concern' Expressed Over Russian Stand on Latvia, Estonia *[ITAR-TASS]* 88
Plans on Helicopter Repair Plant With Russia Reviewed *[RESPUBLIKA 29 Jun]* 89
U.S. Ambassador Visits Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant *[BNS]* 90
Poland Donates 'Gift' of Weapons to Army *[ITAR-TASS]* 90
Seimas Adopts Law on Armed Forces Leadership *[Vilnius Radio]* 90
  Defense Minister Opposes Law *[BNS]* 91

Baltic, Black Sea Countries Propose Oil Meeting

WS1907082993 Minsk RID in Russian 1431 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Report by RID correspondent Tatyana Shchebet: "Will Eastern Europe Get the Eastern Oil?"]

[Text] Participants of the international conference of countries of the Baltic and Black Sea region, which was held on 14-15 July in Minsk, addressed the governments and legislatures of Belarus, Lithuania, and Ukraine with a proposal to convene a joint meeting for the discussion of draft projects on the establishment of the Baltic Black Sea Oil Collector [BBSOC], the creation of a regional bank for the development of Eastern Europe for the financing of the programs connected with the efficient use of energy resources, the development of power engineering, transport, communications, and ecological protection in the Baltic-Black Sea region.

In the opinion of the participants of the conference, who represented various parties and movements, the realization of the BBSOC project will not hamper the delivery of oil from the East to the countries of Eastern and Western Europe and is not directed against the interests of third countries.

Baltic, Black Sea Groups Issue Statement on Sevastopol

LD1707145993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] We have received a statement by representatives of parties and movements from Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine.

We, representatives of democratic parties and movements from Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine, the statement says, are deeply concerned about dangerous tendencies in Russian foreign policy being on the increase. The resolution on the status of the city of Sevastopol adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, was a characteristic manifestation of it.

The resolution cannot be considered to be anything other than a violation of the Helsinki agreements and a threat to the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and to stability and security in the East Europe.

Our opinion is that these steps by the Russian Supreme Soviet were made possible as a result of Russia's chauvinstic forces' growing influence on its state policy and of the West underestimating that influence as potential source of conflicts. They are also facilitated by the lack of will to carry out independent policy among the leadership of countries of the former Soviet Union.

Surprise is also caused by the position on that resolution, taken by the Russian Supreme Soviet's deputies of democratic orientation.

We are convinced that the world community will condemn that action as a typical example of the policy of force and ultimatums in international relations and will thus prevent the emergence of another hotbed of tension on the European continent.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Jul

LD1707072993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0527 GMT 17 Jul 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Today's newspapers do not highlight any common subject of particular importance. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA published an article entitled "Leonid Kravchuk is Preparing for September Referendum", describing preparations for the forthcoming referendum in Ukraine.

"Although the Ukrainian president has declared that the referendum scheduled for September 25 will entail no legal consequences, the Ukrainian president is not likely to accept a defeat. Over the past few months the president repeatedly appealed to those who determine the fate of any politician in Ukraine - electors of eastern regions.... The results of the referendum and the Ukrainian economy will be able to dictate with greater power new rules of the game to Kiev," the newspaper said.

"ROSSIYSKIE VESTI" published an interview with Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray who comments on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation.

Shakhray believes that the draft law of the constitution developed and adopted by the Constitutional Assembly is a minimum task. Today, much depends on the subjects of the Russian Federation. After a new wave of "sovereignization", when some regions had proclaimed themselves republics or are intending to do so, it is difficult to coordinate a chapter of the constitution on the federal structure. Shakhray said that in his opinion, all politicians realize this danger. The proclamation of republics is a process similar to the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. Both "the handwriting and the style" are the same, although the causes may be different...", [quotation marks as received] Shakhray noted.

"At any rate, the chapter on the federal structure should be delayed for the time being and one should not attempt to speed up the developments. The talks are under way and the growing realization of the danger of repeating the experience of the collapse of the Soviet Union inspires optimism," Shakhray said.

"A treacherous attack made by Islamic militants and Afghan mojahideens on the 11th and 12th outposts of Russian border guards is none other than a deliberate action planned beforehand," said Colonel-General Vladimir Shlyakhtin in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

Commenting on the incident, Shlyakhtin said that the opposition government led by Abdullo Nuri [name as received], "has set itself the task of ousting Russian border guards and the 201st Motorized Rifle Division from Tajikistan by unleashing a series of armed provocations."

Shlyakhtin said that after an investigation into the circumstances of the attack it became apparent that "Tajik armed formations currently stationed on the territory of Afghanistan are being supplied with weapons and munition from different countries."

The general said that machine-guns and other Chinese-made and Czech-made fire arms were found on the battle scene, while a uniform of one of the killed militants was made in Pakistan.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article under a catching title "Has Belarusian Intelligence Chief Committed Suicide?"

The newspaper reports that Mikhail Zhukovets, chief of the foreign intelligence department of the Belarusian Committee for Security, died at 2:00 a.m. on July 14 after falling from the 10th floor of the house where he lived with his family. The newspaper says that "one cannot say for sure whether it was an accident, a suicide or a deliberate murder."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview by leader of Russian communists, Gennadiy Zyuganov, with Radio Svoboda (Liberty). The newspaper quoted Zyuganov as saying that "he was a supporter of the unification of all national and state forces who realise that the country should be protected against another civil war."

The St. Petersburg-based newspaper SMENA reported that a car accident had occurred on Primorskoye Highway, killing 5 and injuring 6 passengers. A microbus, carrying deputies of the Sestroretsk Region, under unknown circumstances had rammed into a truck trailer. Chairman of the Sestrorestk regional council has ruled out that the accident took place for political reasons.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yastrzhembskiy's 'Last Briefing'

LD1607134293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—Sergey Yastrzhembskiy today held his last briefing on current issues of world politics as the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department. He will present the credentials of the Russian ambassador to Slovakia in Bratislava next week.

Yastrzhembskiy has served as the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department since April 1992. According to information from well-informed sources, he is likely to be replaced by the present director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa Department Grigory Karasin.

Warns Against Ukraine Owning Nuclear Arms

LD1607131393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1212 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—If Ukraine becomes a nuclear power this will be equivalent to "opening Pandora's box and giving the go-ahead for other nuclear states to spring up, thus putting an end to the regime of nuclear nonproliferation." This is the comment made at a briefing today by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department of Information and the Press, about the decision of the Ukrainian Parliament to proclaim Ukraine the owner of nuclear weapons.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Ukraine itself would make the final decisions on this matter, but stressed that "Russia is not threatening anyone and is making only one appeal to Ukraine—to live in friendship and goodneighborliness. Russia, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy continued, is ready to give Ukraine guarantees of its security, to ensure ecological safety linked with the temporary location of nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine, and is ready to help to eliminate the nuclear weapons and to conclude all the talks necessary for this.

Ukraine 'Trying To Become a Nuclear Power'

AU1607175493 Paris AFP in English 1722 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, July 16 (AFP)—Russia accused Ukraine Friday of trying to become a nuclear power and undermining international efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

Foreign ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said Ukraine's "ambition to become a nuclear power" ran the risk of encouraging the emergence of other nuclear states and "undermining the international non-proliferation accords."

On July 2 Ukrainian lawmakers overwhelmingly approved the adoption—within a bill on foreign policy objectives—of a clause stating that all nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory belonged to Ukraine.

The former Soviet republic, which has still to ratify the START 1 agreement on strategic disarmament signed by the former Soviet Union and the United States in 1991, has more than 1,700 warheads on its territory.

The Ukrainian armoury comprises 176 intercontinental missiles: 130 SS-19s and 46 SS-24s.

Yastrzhembskiy stressed Friday that Russia "has no intention of threatening its neighbours and only wants relations of friendship and good-neighbourliness with Ukraine."

Welcomes UN Resolution on Angola

LD1607144993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1409 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The Russian side is satisfied to state that the basic provisions of the U.N. Security Council Resolution on Angola adopted on Thursday are in line with the positions of the three states monitoring the peace process in the country, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing in Moscow on Friday [16 July].

Yastrzhembskiy drew attention to the U.N. Security Council's high appraisal of the Angolan Government's determination to carry out a peace process in the country. "The Russian Foreign Ministry believes it principally important that the U.N. Security Council is not paying less attention to the Angolan conflict and is exerting new efforts in order to settle it."

Yastrzhembskiy expressed the hope that the new call of the international community will be heard in Angola this time and all sides involved will respond with immediate actions. "In its turn, Russia is continuing efforts to achieve a full and earliest possible implementation of the agreements, paying special attention to the provision of support for the legitimate Angolan Government," the spokesman said.

Commends Successful Conclusion to Haiti Talks

LD1607155493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1509 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—Moscow welcomes the successful conclusion of talks between the Haitian sides in New York which resulted in an agreement to return legitimate President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Port-au-Prince, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing in Moscow on Friday [16 July].

"We believe this is the result of a balanced and responsible approach of the sides involved in the internal conflict and an effective support for and cooperation in the search for a peaceful settlement in Haiti on the part of the international community, the United Nations and the Organisation of African States. Their consistency in restoring the constitutional order has largely contributed to the success of the talks," Yastrzhembskiy said.

Moscow believes that "the agreements reached in New York open up real prospects for national reconciliation and strengthening democracy in the country. It is now important that both sides carry out their obligations with consistency," the spokesman stressed.

Says Latvia's Territorial Claims 'Ungrounded'

LD1607143893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1405 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry has drawn the attention of Latvia to the fact that maps continue to be published in Latvia which reflect "ungrounded territorial claims with respect to Russia", Russian ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

The spokesman expressed hope that "the Latvian leadership will show an understanding of the pointlessness of encroachments on Russian sovereignty and territorial integrity and will take necessary steps to end cartographic expansion".

As concerns the pullout of Russian troops from the Baltic countries, the spokesman that [as received] "no organised withdrawal of the troops can be secured as demanded by decisions of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE] and the United Nations General Assembly" before documents are worked out and signed to regulate all aspects of the withdrawal of troops, including the legal status of their temporary deployment on the territory of the sovereign Baltic countries, as well as other legal, material and technical matters.

Chernomyrdin Concludes Extended Visit to Germany

Meets Premier of Brandenburg Land

LD1607145693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Aleksey Korinenko and Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Potsdam July 16 TASS—The Brandenburg Land's experience of shunting the economy onto the tracks of the market management and forging close economic links between Russian regions and Germany were centrestage to the talk between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Prime Minister of the Brandenburg Land Manfred Stolpe held here today.

During the meeting, Chernomyrdin emphasised that the experience of the transition of Brandenburg and other new lands of the Federal Republic of Germany to the socially-oriented market economy, approaches to the restructuring and modernisation of industry and agriculture, methods of running and organising society that cushion the inevitable painful consequences of these transformations for the most various sections of the population is very valuable for Russia today.

He also stated that the Russian Government will support efforts by Russia's regions to forge direct regional links between West Germany's new lands and separate regions of Russia.

Meets Russian Troops in Wuensdorf

LD1607215193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2037 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Ivan Ivanov, Aleksey Korinenko and Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Wuensdorf July 17 TASS—All questions connected with the Army and its units stationed in other countries are always in the focus of attention of the Russian leadership, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at a meeting with the command of the Russian troops in Germany.

Chernomyrdin is in Wuensdorf as part of his trip to Germany. He stressed that the Russian leadership is deeply concerned with the protection of the rights of Russians abroad, including the military. Speaking about the problems of the Russian troops stationed in Germany, Chernomyrdin said the main task facing both the Russian and German authorities is to preserve a normal psychological atmosphere around their presence in Germany so that Russian soldiers return home leaving behind good memories.

The premier also stressed the importance of providing Russian servicemen returning from abroad with housing, job and social welfare. He said the Russian Government is working in this direction.

Chernomyrdin decided to stay one more day in Wuensdorf in order to get a better understanding of the needs and problems of Russian troops in Germany.

Extends Visit One Day

LD1707094493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin, the head of the Russian Government, has decided to extend by one day his working visit to Germany. This is due to his wish to acquaint himself in greater detail with the life of the Western Group of Forces personnel.

Contract Signed for Construction in Siberia

LD1707122493 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The three-day official visit by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to Germany has ended. It has been announced that a major contract has been signed for the construction in Siberia, starting from 1995, of a works to produce ethylene and polyethelene. The total value of the contract is 1.2 billion German marks.

Arrives in Moscow; Interviewed at Airport

LD1707201793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By correspondent S. Milyanchikov, including recorded remarks by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin]

[Text] [Announcer Arina Sharipova] After his four-day visit to the FRG, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who earlier today toured and inspected the territory where the Western Group of Forces is stationed, returned to Moscow. Our correspondent met him at the airport.

[Milyanchikov] This was Viktor Chernomyrdin's first visit to Germany, even though he himself received his German colleagues on his very first day in office. Speaking about the main aims of the visit, he noted:

[Chernomyrdin] We explained what Russia is at present, what we want, and what we know.

[Milyanchikov] The Russian delegation did not ask for economic aid from the West. What was discussed was in what area the two states could cooperate on an equal footing. Russia hopes for German assistance in its bid to enter the European market and in abolishing discrimination in trade with us. Viktor Chernomyrdin also paid much attention to the problem of the Western Group of Forces. In his words, despite the fact that the units ought to be withdrawn within a year, the servicemen's morale was high. The government's main task now is to ensure normal service and living conditions here. [video shows Chernomyrdin alighting from the plane, welcomed by officials, talking to journalists at the airport]

Kozyrev Meets With German Prime Minister in Munich

Discusses Cooperation, Germany's Role in UN

LD1707165993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Excerpt] Munich, 17 Jul—[passage omitted] Topical issues of Germany's cooperation with Russia and other states of the former Soviet Union as well as other international problems were discussed during the first day of the talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. Among the other issues were the crisis situation in the former Yugoslavia and how to improve the work of the UN at present.

"I do not think," A. Kozyrev said, commenting on the talks at the request of the ITAR-TASS correspondent, "that there are currently any problems dividing us. At the same time, there are some complex problems in existence and we are dealing with them jointly. I must say that right now we are tackling issues of the real politics. Its aim is to make it possible to implement even the most unreal ideas as a result of practical cooperation and partnership between Russia and Germany." This, A. Kozyrev continued, also refers to the issue of Germany's place in the UN Security Council. In practice, it is an extremely complex task at the moment. "But I am sure that we will find suitable forms and methods to ensure that at this stage Germany could play a permanent and more responsible role in the framework of the UN, too," the Russian minister said. "Our talks today," he stressed, "are unofficial but all the more so, productive."

Views Results of Visit

LD1807174393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Munich July 18 TASS—"At present the point at issue is the development of a sort of partnership axis between Russia and Germany", Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in an exclusive interview with TASS on Sunday, at the end of a two-day working meeting with his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel in the southern German town of Munich.

"Many things divided our countries in the past, specifically some notorious tragic events", the Russian foreign minister pointed out. "But I believe much more things unite us nowadays, since Russia and Germany are the two greatest powers in Europe. It is safe to say that the Russian-German week, which is now coming to an end, has embraced all aspects: the global dimension—a summit between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the Lake Baykal, the economic dimension—intense negotiations of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with representatives of the German business community, and finally the foreign-policy dimension, which includes European and international problems. The latter set of problems was at the centre of the meeting, which ended today", Kozyrev reported.

Addressing a concluding news conference in Munich, the Russian foreign minister dwelt upon the discussion of the current situation in former Yugoslavia he had with Kinkel. "The discussion has become a concrete manifestation of how the Russian-German partnership axis is functioning. And this axis, in contrast to the previous ones, is not aimed against any other countries", he stressed.

When asked by TASS whether the Russian president was planning to visit Germany, Kozyrev said that "presently we should sum up the results of the large-scale work, which was carried out during the last week. A visit by the Russian president will certainly take place".

Later in the day, the Russian foreign minister left Munich for Moscow.

Departure Delayed by Plane Mishap

LD1807200693 Hamburg DPA in German 1905 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Munich (DPA)—After a minor accident at Munich airport today, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has had to postpone his departure from Munich and spend the night there. While taxying to the runway for take-off his plane ran off the taxyway and one of its engines touched the ground. According to the state police, it was an hour before the plane could be recovered. Kozyrev and his party returned to Munich. The safety checks on the TU-134 had still not been completed late this evening.

Agreement Concluded With U.S. on Missile Technology

LD1707095793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0944 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington July 17 TASS—Two-day talks between U.S. and Russian delegations ended in Washington on Friday [16 July] by signing an agreement on the non-proliferation of missile technology.

The U.S. delegation to the talks was led by Lynn Davis, undersecretary for international security affairs, and the Russian delegation—by Yuriy Koptev, director of the Russian Space Agency. Upon completion of the talks Davis told a briefing that as of November 1, 1993 Russia had undertaken to observe an international regime of control over the non-proliferation of missile technology, to which Russia does not belong yet.

Russia and the United States agreed to regard the reached agreement as "the basis for cooperation between them in space," Davis said. Asked about prospects for this cooperation, Davis said that joint projects were expected to be discussed in the near future, including Russia's participation in the construction of the U.S. orbital station.

Russia Not To Give India Technology

LD1707161293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The United States and Russia have reached agreement on the nonproliferation of missile technologies. Two days of negotiations have yielded an agreement under which Russia will supply India with several more missile engines but will refrain from selling missile technologies to the country. [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin To Visit U.S. Within 'Next Few Weeks'

LD1707142693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is to visit the United States within the next few weeks. This was announced on Friday by State Department spokesman Michael McCarey. He said that the Russian prime minister would meet Vice President Albert Gore.

Chernomyrdin postponed his visit last month because of the disagreement between the United States and Russia over the planned sale to India of Russian rocket engines and technology. On 16 Jul the representatives of the two sides managed to reach agreement on this.

Space Agency Signs Cooperation Agreement With NASA

LD1807072593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington July 18 TASS—Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency (RSA), and Daniel Goldin, director of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), signed a space cooperation agreement here on Saturday.

Under the agreement, they undertook to study, before August 31, this year, the technical aspects of proposals aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation in space research. The agreement provides for the consideration of options for the implementation of a joint program for manned flights programme.

The RSA and NASA agreed to study, with a view to implementing a project for the joint launch of an orbital station. The agreement also envisages the discussion of possibilities for cooperation between the Russian orbital complex Mir and U.S. space shuttles.

Under an agreement signed by the RSA and NASA earlier, preparations are now in progress for a flight of Russian cosmonaut Sergey Krikalev on board the space shuttle Discovery and for a flight of a U.S. astronaut on board the orbital station Mir in 1995 on a three-month research mission. A docking of the Mir station with the shuttle Atlantis is slated for the same year.

Recent Cases Show Spying Persists; U.S. Accused

PM1607184193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Gorlenko report: "Their Intelligence Is Not Sleeping"]

[Text] Over the past few years Russian counterintelligence has uncovered several dozen agents who had been working for the special services of the United States and other foreign states. Despite the constantly proclaimed end of the Cold War, the number of attempts by foreign agencies to penetrate our state secrets is not diminishing.

One of the latest cases of betrayal of the motherland by way of espionage was tried quite recently. There were four accused. It seems that it had been a long time—at least in the postwar years—since so many people were simultaneously accused of the same crime under Article 64 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code.

The case is now closed and sentence has been passed. It all started three years ago in direct proximity to a Western Group of Forces military unit stationed on German territory.

The main character in the case was one Dmitriy Gorchakov, a former pilot with a Novosibirsk air detachment who had been personally summoned to Germany.

The first person he involved in his nefarious deeds was Avetisyan, who had been discharged to the reserve but continued to work as a civilian communications technician with the military unit. Somewhat later he involved Linnik and Parusov, two draftees.

Military counterintelligence organs and Ministry of Security investigators subsequently established that the espionage group headed by Gorchakov had obtained and passed on around 20 important secret documents as well as certain other military information.

Although this case, involving the simultaneous exposure of four Russian citizens accused of betraying the motherland, is not very typical in our experience, the next case would have been difficult even to imagine until recently, since it involves subversive espionage activity against Russia by the special service of... one of the former Soviet republics.

In the course of an operation to put a stop to the illegal export of licensed raw materials from the Russian Federation, personnel from the Pechorskiy Rayon Department of the Security Ministry's Pskov Oblast Administration arrested a citizen of the now-sovereign Estonian Republic attempting to illegally cross the Russian-Estonian border in a prohibited area.

The cab of the truck he was driving, which had itself been stolen from a Russian military unit, contained a large consignment of nonferrous metals.

During a body search he was found to be carrying a document which confirmed that its owner was an agent with the "Kaitseliit"—the Estonian special intelligence service.

During one of the interrogation sessions the arrested man indicated that the activity of the "Kaitseliit" service, in which he had latterly been employed as communications department chief at central headquarters, is directed predominantly against Russia, its armed forces, and its organs of state administration. Nor did the arrested man make any secret of the fact that his intelligence efforts were mainly directed against servicemen with Russian military units deployed on the territory of Pechorskiy Rayon and temporarily in Estonia.

It later transpired that he was ruthless in his treatment of people who had ceased to be of interest to him from the criminal or operational standpoint. The bodies of two Russians he had killed—one of whom was found during a search by a Russian Army warrant officer—were discovered in the Pechora swamps, and he had eliminated two Estonians in his own country.

Estonian law-enforcement organs are currently continuing their investigation in the criminal case relating to the murders.

It should be noted that the U.S. special services are making vigorous attempts to set up so-called stations in countries adjoining the Russian Federation, including CIS states. The United States recently decided to somewhat relax the "intelligence regime" with regard to a number of Commonwealth countries. Russia, however, is not on the "privileged" list. It continues to be a target for a major U.S. intelligence effort. So it is clearly premature to hope that there are no more spies in Russia.

Further Coverage of Tajik-Afghan Border Incident

No Confirmation of Attacks

PM1607153793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Boris Vinogradov report: "Kabul Claims Mojahedin Took No Part in Attack on Russian Border Post"]

[Text] The official radio in Kabul has broadcast the text of a statement by the Afghan foreign minister which contains a "resolute protest" to the CIS countries which carried out bombing and artillery strikes against northern parts of Afghanistan.

The document states that the Russian Armed Forces, taking up positions on the Afghan-Tajik border, carried out an artillery and bombing strike against population centers in Chah Ab District in the northern province of Takhar, resulting in people being killed and wounded. The Afghan Government denies the claims that mojahedin took part in the attack on Russian border posts in Tajikistan, and demands that Dushanbe take measures to prevent any "anti-Afghan actions" in the future. The Afghan people, the statement goes on to say, express concern over the presence of foreign troops near their borders and have an interest in their removal—which, in Kabul's opinion, would promote the strengthening of trust and mutual understanding between the neighboring states.

The text of the statement is being transmitted by foreign agencies from Islamabad. Meanwhile, we were told by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry that no official protest had been received from the Afghan mission in Moscow. Moreover, our foreign policy department has no confirmation from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry that Russian troops had struck against Afghan territory from Tajikistan.

The public relations center at the Ministry of Security, which is responsible for Russia's border guards, also could neither confirm nor deny this report. It merely reported that the 11th Russian Border Post had come under missile attack from the other side of the border Thursday evening. There were no fatalities or casualties.

Grachev To Visit Border

LD1607161293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains complicated. At about 2100 on Thursday evening four mortar shells were launched from the Afghan side against the territory of post No. 11 of the Moscow border unit. We were informed in the press service of the Russian border troops in Moscow that there were no casualties among the border troops. On the whole, the night passed relatively calmly. There were no reports of combat actions or armed clashes. The border is being monitored along its whole length, the press service of Russia's border troops reports.

Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov today flew to the border with Afghanistan. The aim of their trip is to carry out an on-the-spot investigation into the conflict situation which arose on the territory of the Moscow border unit where, as we have already reported, on the night of 12-13 July 24 Russian border troops and two servicmen of the 201st Russian motorized rifle division died in a shoot-out with Afghan Mojahedin.

By the way, tanks of a regiment of the 201st Division from Dushanbe and a unit of border troops from Kazakhstan still remain on this section of the border. In the near future it is planned to bring in a number of armed formations of the Tajik governmental forces which will help to control the situation on the border.

Grachev Visits, Returns

LD1807053593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0533 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow July 18 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev returned to Moscow from Dushanbe on Saturday after visiting Tajikistan at the head of a group of military leaders from the Russian general staff in view of the sharply aggravated situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

During the visit, Grachev conferred with the leadership of Tajikistan, representatives of the Defence Ministry and other powerful ministries of the republic and the command of border troops.

The two sides worked out a programme for the joint actions of the two states to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border and render help to the Defence Ministry of Tajikistan.

No provision has been made for bringing additional units of Russian troops to Tajikistan, Colonel General Vladimir Semyonov, commander-in-chief of the land forces of the Russian Federation, told journalists at the close of the visit.

It is planned to bring the 201st motorised rifle division up to the full complement for it to be able to help the border guards in the accomplishment of tasks. In addition, specific measures have been worked out on the basis of bilateral accords to strengthen the armed forces of Tajikistan.

"Russia will take all necessary measures to defend the border in order to prevent a recurrence of the tragedy that happened at the 12th border picket," Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev stated.

Rutskoy Issues Statement on Attack

PM1607185293 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Rebuffing Extremists"]

[Text] Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has issued a statement in connection with the events on the Tajik-Afghan border. It states: "Like all Russian citizens, I grieve deeply over the deaths of the border guards from the 12th Moscow Border Guards Detachment and the servicemen from the 201st Motorized Rifle Division of the group of Russian forces on the Tajik-Afghan border. I send my condolences to the relatives and friends of the dead, and to their comrades in arms.

"The sound of the far-off war on the borders of sovereign Tajikistan has reached the cities and villages of Russia, where mothers are crying for their sons who honorably did their military duty. The tragedy on the Tajik-Afghan border again reminds us of the grave consequences of the collapse of the Soviet Union, and of the deepening crisis of politics and power that is developing in many of the former Union republics and now sovereign states.

"I appeal to the Tajik leadership to step up its efforts to normalize the situation in the republic, to put an end to interethnic hatred, and to resolutely rebuff the provocative attacks by extremists, which not only affect the Tajik people but are killing Russian boys.

"I call on the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan to take urgent measures to stop that state's territory being used for purposes hostile to Tajikistan and the other CIS states. In the recent past Afghans have experienced, perhaps more than any other people, all the severity and grief of internecine strife and attempts to establish ideological diktat. This grave experience should help them to recognize the perniciousness of enmity and confrontation.

"The tragic events of 12 July in the 12th border post's district have revealed yet again the problems of material and technical provision for the group of Russian forces, the poor level of protection available to the personnel, and the lack of a system of fire and air support for border guards—which is particularly important in this explosive sector.

"The time for complacency and irresponsibility is past. It is time for state leaders to draw conclusions from the tragedies directly linked with the Russian Army. Every soldier and officer should know that a state—Russia—stands behind them. Then those who take up arms against civilians and soldiers keeping the peace will start to understand this as well."

Government Vows To Stop Border Provocations

LD1607200793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1853 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The council of ministers—Government of the Russian Federation expressed deep condolences to the families and next-of-kin of the Russian and Tajik citizens who died as a result of the provocative actions by armed extremists on the Tajik-Afghan border.

A statement by the Russian Government released today says "Russia, remaining to be committed to treaty obligations assumed within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, expresses confidence that the obligations to defend the territory of the friendly state will be scrupulously fulfilled by all parties to the treaty on collective security and joint additional measures will be taken by them to stop military provocations on the border in this explosive region.

The Government of the Russian Federation takes necessary measures to protect the life and security of Russian and Tajik citizens by means corresponding to the circumstances and to prevent acts of agression on the CIS's southern borders in future.

The Government of the Russian Federation approaches the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan with the request to take, for its part, efforts to normalise the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and states readiness to carry out coordinated measures to achieve this goal.

The Council of Ministers—Government of the Russian Federation treats with understanding the request to maintain peace in Tajikistan, which was made in the statement by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, and calls on the other CIS member-states to pool efforts to carry out peace-making actions in the region," the statement points out.

Deputies Urge Continued Military Support

LD1807090193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 18 TASS—Russian troops should not quit Tajikistan. This is a unanimous opinion of a delegation of Russian parliamentarians who have just visited the area of border picket 12, where more than 20 Russian border guards had been killed in bloody fighting recently.

"We have much in common with the friendly Tajik people. The republic has 300,000 Russians. Frankly speaking, the Tajik-Afghan border is the frontier of our Commonwealth of Independent States, the frontier of Russia," parliamentary group leader Georgiy Kuts told Mayak radio.

Beyond any doubt, the masterminds and perpetrators of the criminal act should be strictly punished, and the border, just as the border guards, the military personnel and civilians, should be thoroughly defended, Russian parliamentarians believe.

Measures, which make it possible reliably to seal the border and protect the population of Tajikistan, were worked out on Saturday during a conference involving the Russian defence minister, the parliamentary group leader said.

"Let no one have any doubt about that. One would wish adequate measures to be also taken by our close neighbours—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan," he said. The fighting at border picket 12 involved Russians, Tajiks, Kazakhs, Ukrainians and Belarusians, Kuts recalled. "We whole-heartedly partake of the grief of the parents of the killed servicemen whose memory will live in our hearts. The command of the border troops of Russia has recommended that both the living and the killed be awarded orders and medals," Kuts said.

Abartsumov Airs Views on Sevastopol Situation

LD1607165393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Remarks by E. Abartsumov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International

Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] First, I do not want to dramatize the situation surrounding the Supreme Soviet's decision on Sevastopol. I think that there is a problem, and it is designated in the decision. The problem is, in general, becoming history, because the handing over of the Crimea to Ukraine by Khrushchev was unlawful. On the other hand, we do understand that this cannot be done by force or by some similar method, and that there must be political negotiations. Naturally, they will take a long time.

As far as Sevastopol is concerned, the public in the Crimea and in Russia are, to all appearances, inclined to think that it is not expedient to divide the Black Sea Fleet and that Sevastopol should indeed be retained as the base of a single Black Sea Fleet. I think the very best thing to start with, something which is stated in that decision, is the request to the govenment of Ukraine to withdraw the special purpose units from there. They are creating unnecessary nervousness and tension; then the situaion should be resolved, but first and foremost in accordance with the will of the population and the moods that predominate in the Black Sea Fleet.

Churkin Meets Serbian Krajina Leader in Knin

LD1807055993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0553 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Vienna July 18 TASS—The Russian Embassy in Zagreb circulated the following press release on Sunday [18 July]:

On July 17, Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the president of Russia and deputy foreign minister, made a trip to the city of Knin where he met with the leadership of the Serbian Krajina.

During the meeting the two sides considered matters connected with the implementation of the recently reached accord between Croatia and the leadership of the Krajina Serbs, which envisages in particular a reopening of the Maslenica bridge and a withdrawal of Croatian troops from Serbian Krajina territories seized in January- February this year.

Churkin pointed out that this agreement meets the interests of both the Croatian side and the Krajina Serbs and that its realisation would open up prospects for the normalisation of relations between the two sides. Prospects for ensuring the sustenance of life in the region were discussed as well.

On the same day the Russian representative met with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb.

Churkin is due to leave by air for Sarajevo on Sunday for talks with members of the collective presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Meets Izetbegovic in Sarajevo

LD1807202293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2018 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Vienna July 18 TASS—The Russian embassy in Zagreb released on Sunday [18 July] an official press report.

The report reads, "Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy and Russian deputy foreign minister, visited on July 18 Sarajevo where he met with Moslem President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and other members of the republic's collective presidency. The talks centred on the issues pertaining to the future state and constitutional arrangement of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the run-up to the forthcoming meeting of Serb, Croat and Moslem leaders in Geneva. The Russian side reaffirmed its readiness to continue supplies of natural gas to Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially to Sarajevo, and offered mediation and assistance in the settlement of differences with Serbs arising from this move.

"A meeting with the military and civilian command of the U.N. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina was held in the town of Kiseljak outside Sarajevo, during which it was stressed that the priority task of the Bosnian settlement was to reach political agreement meeting the interests of Bosnia-Herzegovina's three state-forming communal groups".

Moscow Signs Economic Cooperation Treaty With Lithuania

LD1707132193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Lithuanian Industry and Trade Minister Kazimieras Klimasauskas have signed a treaty on trade and economic cooperation. The mayor's office press center says that the treaty envisages the establishment of most favored nation status conditions in the sphere of duties, taxes, and customs regulations between Lithuania and the Moscow region.

Poland Rumored To Halt Ostankino TV Relays 1 Aug

LD1607225693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By correspondent Yuriy Ulyanov "from Poland"; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] According to persistent rumors, Ostankino television will stop its transmissions in Poland on 1 August. Until now these have been relayed by transmitters installed in Warsaw on the Palace of Culture and Science, and in the port of Szczecin on the television building. Both of these transmitters were taken to Poland a few years ago from the former Soviet Union. But no record was made in juridical documents of their installation, nor of any kind of gift, nor indeed of the relay. In accordance with a law recently adopted in Poland, all television and radio stations working without a licence will be considered to be pirate stations, and will be subject to closure. [passage omitted]

General Positively Assesses Ties With Poland

PM1907104393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 2

[Interview with Colonel General Leonid Kovalev, Russian Federation Government's plenipotentiary for matters relating to the Russian troops' stay in Poland, by Captain Second Rank Mikhail Khondoshko under the "Northern Group of Forces: Troop Withdrawal" rubric; place and date not given: "The Day Is Not Far Off..."]

[Text] The 49-year history of the Northern Group of Forces [NGF] is being concluded by a very complex military-technical operation which is drawing to a close—the systematic withdrawal to Russia of the troops stationed on Polish soil. Today it is possible to sum up some results in connection with this. We will attempt to do this with the help of a highly competent person—Colonel General Leonid Kovalev, Russian Federation Government's plenipotentiary for matters relating to the Russian troops' stay in Poland.

[Khondoshko] The day is not far off when the last Russian Army soldier will leave Polish soil. This will place the final period at the end of the latest chapter of the modern history of Russian-Polish relations. How would you assess this period of time?

[Kovalev] The centuries-long history of Russian-Polish relations is complex and contradictory. The history of the postwar period is no exception either.

Today each side makes its own assessment of the results of the NGF servicemen's stay on Polish soil. But, whatever sophisms certain Polish politicians might resort to, it is hard for them to refute the obvious fact that for half a century our units and combined units have, together with the Polish Army, served as a reliable guarantor of peace for that country's people. As a guarantor of the inviolability of its western borders. You will agree that the world community learned quite recently to resolve the majority of most acute problems at the negotiating table not with threats but with compromises. This trend became apparent only in the past decade.

At the same time it has to be admitted that in the past the presence of NGF units on Polish soil could not help but have the nature of certain ideological pressure. For the Soviet Army was ensuring the interests of the ruling party in the USSR.

I categorically disagree, however, with the claim that we were "occupiers" on that soil, as the most radical adherents of Polish history maintain. Unfortunately, precisely this formula expresses the assessment of our Army's stay in Poland by those who now use the mass media to shape Polish public opinion. There would certainly be no place for such assessments if our troops had left Poland and also, incidentally, the other countries of East and Central Europe much sooner. Then the falsifiers would not have had the slightest grounds for casting aspersions on the Soviet servicemen's bright memory and "correcting" their own peoples' memory of them by removing the now historical monuments in the liberators' honor from squares in cities large and small. I hope that a sober view of the postwar stage of Polish-Russian relations will also prevail in the minds of Polish politicians in the near future, because Russia and Poland will build their relations on a deideologized basis.

I also wish to speak about the history of relations between the two countries' armies. They have always been normal and businesslike. We have learned from each other and taught each other. We have sought and found optimum solutions to operational and tactical tasks within the framework of exercises and of the doctrine professed by our countries' military-political leadership. We have been able to value in each other that which any military man values in his comrade—professionalism, reliability, readiness to come and help without superfluous words. I believe that the nature of these relations will not change in years to come. Particularly as our countries' politicians seem to be starting to find that understanding of each other's problems which distinguishes good neighbors.

[Khondoshko] Leonid Illarionovich, the treaty signed by the two countries' presidents in Moscow 22 May 1992 said that the sides would use the time of the Russian troops' stay in Poland to establish truly good-neighborly contacts between the states' peoples. To what extent has it been possible to fulfill this part of the Moscow agreements?

[Kovalev] On the whole, in my view, this provision of the treaty on the withdrawal of the NGF is being fulfilled. To all appearances, the Polish authorities have made a definite effort to change views of Russia—both their own and those of society as a whole. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of articles in the central and local press couched in the spirit of prejudice toward our country and its soldiers. I hope that during the remaining months of the stay of the contingent of Russian troops in Poland there will be no misunderstandings or conflict situations which cannot be settled there and then, as the saying goes.

It should be noted that the Polish side has never carried out the promise of President Lech Walesa of the Republic of Poland to participate more concretely in the construction of housing for servicemen being withdrawn to Russia from the NGF. I understand how strained Poland's resources and means are at the difficult time of the transition to a market. But I still hope that the decision—very important for our servicemen—on the Polish side's participation in the construction of housing will be adopted. I reckon that it will be made concrete to one degree or another during the preparations for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Poland.

Why do I devote special attention to the housing problem? Because I consider it one of the most important in the matter of building and reforming the Russian Army. In it the professional must tackle only his own business. He must not be given a headache by the question: Will he have a roof over his head at his new place of service or after transfer to the reserve? By resolving the problems of social protection and the provision of amenities for those who face being transferred to the reserve by reason of age or in connection with the reduction of the Armed Forces and for those who are to continue service, we will not only render these people their due for their hard military labor but will also preserve the Army's backbone.

In conclusion I will speak of the following. I have no reason to rebuke the soldiers and officers of all generations who have served on Polish soil for almost half a century. They have honorably fulfilled their duty. NGF units and combined units have always been among the best trained, excellently armed, and combat ready. Hundreds and thousands of officers and ensigns, who now make up the backbone of the Russian Army, which is renewing itself, have been through the school of the NGF.

All who have served in Poland will retain the brightest feelings and memories of this Slav country and its good, long-suffering people. Our officers and ensigns have been and are on friendly terms with many Polish servicemen and residents of the cities and villages where our garrisons have stood. I see precisely this as the guarantee of future truly good and friendly relations between Russia and Poland.

5-Year Freeze on Talks With Japan Proposed

OW1707152393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1507 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, July 17 KYODO—A senior member of the Russian Supreme Soviet has submitted to the standing legislature a draft resolution urging Moscow to suspend territorial negotiations with Japan for five years, sources said Saturday [17 July].

If adopted by the Supreme Soviet, the resolution would set back Japan's decades-long bid for the return of the islands off Hokkaido. They were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

The sources said a resolution by the Supreme Soviet has no binding power over the Russian Government headed by President Boris Yeltsin.

The draft was proposed by Sergey Mikhailov, vice chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Committee on Foreign Affairs, on July 6, just one day before Yeltsin left Moscow for Tokyo to meet leaders of Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries, the sources said.

The draft resolution obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE says it is impossible to make any decision on the territorial dispute for the moment although Russia respects the Japanese people and wants good relations with Tokyo.

The resolution calls for a five-year freeze on the territorial talks, citing Russia's political instability stemming from the confrontation between Yeltsin and the parliament, whose members were chosen before the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Evgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the committee, told KYODO that a resolution does not have legal power to bind the government.

Mikhailov plans to urge the Supreme Soviet to adopt the resolution after discussing it with Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, according to the sources.

Russia and Japan are making preparations for Yeltsin to visit Tokyo in mid-October, in what Japanese officials hoped would result in headway on the islands' issue.

Moscow Reports Chinese Response on Ship Incident

OW1707135193 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[From the "News" program]

[Text] On Friday [16 July], China gave a formal response to the incident involving the attack on the Russian merchant vessel Valeriy Volkov in East China Sea on 7 July. The Chinese Foreign Ministry admitted that the vessel was detained by Chinese speedboats escorting Chinese fishing vessels. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry statement, the locally organized anti-smuggling force is responsible for the incident. The Chinese side expressed deep regrets over the incident and promised to take stern actions against personnel responsible for the incident.

Shakhray Says Chinese National Policy 'Merits Attention'

LD1707094193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov and Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing July 17 TASS—"Much of the Chinese national policy merits attention and should be thoroughly studied," Russian Vice-Premier and Chairman of the Russian Committee for Affairs of the Federation and Nationalities, Sergey Shakhray, told Russian journalists before departure from China.

Shakhray said that the Russian and Chinese state committees have a programme of practical activities in the area of national politics. He pointed out that, in the Chinese national policy, attention should be paid to the training of national personnel, which is one of the main factors of a normal national policy which has been recently overlooked by the Russian state committee.

According to Shakhray, China has certain experience in legislative regulation of national relations, which is of great interest to Russia.

"Until recently, the principles of the national policy pursued by China and Russia, coincided. At present, the realisation of these principles is continuing in China, but taking into account the experience of the disintegration of the USSR and current problems in Russia," he said.

Shakhray noted that the experience of the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia showed that the national principle of the state formation had not justified itself. Shakhray pointed out his talks with one of the Chinese leaders, Li Ruihuan, and members of the Chinese Parliamentary Commission for Legislature, which were of great interest to both sides.

Report on Negotiations With Mongolia in Krasnoyarsk

LD1707213693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] [Announcer] An intergovernmental commission that discussed issues of trade and economic cooperation and scientific and technological cooperation between Russia and Mongolia worked for three days in Krasnoyarsk. Gennadiy Nikolayev, our correspondent in Krasnoyarsk, tells us over the telephone the results of its work.

[Nikolayev] The main restraining factor today in the relations between the two countries is Mongolia's indebtedness for credits granted by the USSR. The search for a solution continued, taking world practice into account. It is possible that part of the debt will be returned on the setting up of joint ventures in Mongolia. Some enterprises in the mining and extractive industry may be given over to Russia.

Another and more complicated problem is mutual payments. Although the sides have agreed to work with hard currency the trouble is that neither Russia nor Mongolia has much of it. Today the only realistic solution to the situation are mutual deliveries. The Russian side showed understanding in connection with the difficulties that Mongolia is facing in the sphere of fuel and energy. In turn, Mongolia will deliver copper concentrate.

Both sides were pleased to note that there was good mutual understanding. The deputy prime ministers of the governments, Shokhin and Purevdorj, signed a detailed document. Along with the government delegations, businessmen of the two countries looked for ways of mutually beneficial cooperation. They first of all directed the attention of the government officials to the unregulated nature of the customs regulations. If it proves possible to implement the achieved accords and to draw the businessmen into the process, that will be the main result of the meeting, stressed the participants of the intergovernmental Russian-Mongolian commission.

Lastly, it is the first time that such an intergovernmental meeting was not held in the capital, but in the region, in Krasnoyarsk. Both sides noted the usefulness of such an approach.

Problems Surrounding Western Aid Viewed

PM1607134393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Doctors of Economic Sciences Aleksandr Vetrov and Yuriy Churakov: "Will We Succeed in Spending $44 billion"]

[Text] The 19th meeting of the West's seven industrially developed countries has ended in Tokyo, where it discussed the problem of rendering economic aid to Russia. No fundamentally new decisions were made. It is true that the question was finally resolved of allocating us $3 billion (part of the previously promised $44 billion) intended to assist the program for the privatization and reorganization of Russian enterprises. The main differences arose on the ground of the serious omissions revealed in the process of our receipt of last year's financial aid. The government did not have a precise scheme for where, how, and when to use this aid. The chairman of the board of the European Reconstruction and Development Bank admitted at the time that the widely publicized $24 billion aid package, in fact, had no existence in reality.

If you take a close look at the composition and nature of the aid we receive, its failure to address national economic problems becomes perfectly obvious. Basically it is going on current consumption—on the purchase of so-called critical imports, food and medicine... From today's position all this is of course explicable: A drastic increase in the population's dissatisfaction must be avoided. But on the other hand a situation has been preserved in which the country cannot feed and clothe itself since virtually nothing is left for the consolidation of its production potential. On the other hand, the foreign debt has increased.

Some rational advance has been noted in 1993 when the Western countries and international financial organizations became really aware of the threats emerging on the path of the continuation of Russian economic reforms. They concluded that it was necessary not only to increase the size of aid for the reform but also to elaborate a strictly regulated plan for its provision and targeted use.

But even today a trend can be seen toward a certain discrepancy between the volume of aid which the West can supply, on the one hand, and Russia's lack of readiness to use it on the other. That is explained by the rules accepted in international practice: Appropriations for aid can be earmarked only if the recipient country observes certain conditions stipulated by the sides. Primarily the consistent implementation of a program coordinated with the IMF for the stabilization and financial normalization of the economy (when financial funds are allocated for aid in parts, depending on the course of the recipient country's fulfillment of each specific stage and the terms of the program).

As the recent trip to Moscow by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury L. Bentsen showed, the U.S. Administration believes that before the Russian Government can count on substantial Western assistance, it must adopt more resolute measures to control inflation, the budget deficit, and privatization. Indeed, how can we count on receiving aid if the "flight" of capital from Russia is approximately equal to the size of payments which must be made to extinguish the foreign debt.

At the Tokyo meeting this spring the G-7 foreign ministers and ministers of finance declared that in 1993 Russia would be granted about $44 billion. This readiness had specific expression in a more targeted program whose details were contained in a consolidated list divided into four main sections.

It was proposed to allocate $4.1 billion for the top priority measures to reform the Russian economy and $10.1 billion for stabilization programs. This sum includes the ruble stabilization fund—$6 billion. A substantial sum is envisaged for supporting reforms in the form of a World Bank credit—$3.4 billion. It will also earmarked funds for the development of the oil and gas complex—$0.5 billion. Through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development it is planned to allocate a further $0.3 billion for the fund to support Russian small and medium business. Some $10 billion are envisaged to back up guarantees for export credits. The list's fourth section consists of proposals to restructure the debt of the former USSR—$15 billion.

Although the allocation of $44 billion to Russia was announced with considerable pomp, the creditors are insisting on a specific and extremely tough program without which the aid cannot be granted. This is primarily a program for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development credits, since behind them stand specific deliveries of equipment and materials and various technical aid. Last year the loans received from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, according to the bank's president, L. Preston, were not used effectively. Of the rehabilitation credit of $600 million approved in August 1992 Russia was able to accept less than $100 million although the money was intend to purchase the most important commodities for the national economy. For instance, $350 million were earmarked for centralized purchases of equipment for petroleum refining and coal mines, equipment for agriculture, spare parts for urban municipal transport, and medicines. It was planned to sell $250 million through the Moscow interbank currency exchange to private Russian importers. But because of the Russian authorities' red tape and endless agreements with departments and the Central Bank, this money has still not been assimilated.

Two other credits (approved by the bank's council of directors) have also been unable to function because of the dilatoriness of Russia's central executive and legislative organs. One of these credits, incidentally, was intended to support privatization.

The use of the credits earmarked for Russia by the Western countries within the framework of bilateral relations gave rise to considerable skepticism until recently. They mainly went on the purchase of food and other critical imports and were eaten up quite quickly, after which all that remained was an increased foreign debt sum. Bearing this in mind, the Clinton administration, for instance, in forming an aid package for 1993 paid special attention to the selection of avenues in which credits should be earmarked. The White House says that this package costing a total of $1.6 billion could be put into operation immediately. The real opportunities for its use, in the U.S. side's opinion, are allegedly that in contrast to the package announced a year earlier by the Bush administration, it has been prepared with a consideration for its rational linkage to quite specific sectors and is bound by a precise timeframe.

The size of Russia's foreign debts, the need to pay substantial sums to extinguish them (particularly in the form of interest payments which, in contrast to the basic debt, are not as a rule subject to deferral) are today a serious obstacle to the use of the aid granted by the West. Were it not for the recent deferrals Russia would have to pay over one third of its export profits to extinguish foreign debts (and half in the form of "nonreturnable" interest payments). Yet according to existing international criteria, the "crisis of nonpayments" ensues if expenditure on extinguishing a debt reaches 15-20 percent of the size of exports. Nor should we forget the sorry experience of the developing countries, when expenditure on servicing the foreign debt of some countries began to exceed revenue from new credits. In this situation we will simply be obliged to reduce credit injections into the economy in order to prevent an increase in the foreign debt.

Western states and banks have recently taken certain steps to meet Russia halfway to extend the basic debt. But it is scarcely worth counting on any special "generosity" from them under these conditions. On 16 June this year the U.S. Congress approved a bill on appropriations for foreign aid in fiscal 1994 and considerably less is being earmarked for aid to Russia than last year—only $740 million.

Russia's receptiveness to external aid largely depends on the development of its own export potential. So far the Western countries, despite their assurances of support for economic reforms, are in fact continuing to wage a trade "war" against us. In those fields where it is competitive Russia, instead of support from its creditors, is often encountering discrimination. In the assessment of Russian Federation Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergey Glazyev, opening access to foreign markets would for Russia be an even more important condition for the success of economic reform than financial aid from the West.

Europarliamentarians Lack 'Objective Picture' of Russia

PM1907100193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

["Own Information" report: "There Is No Preordained Way To Find Accord"]

[Text] Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov spent almost two hours answering questions from newspaper chief editors during a meeting at the Journalists Center. R. Khasbulatov gave his impressions of the Supreme Soviet delegation's visit to Strasbourg where they met with deputies of the European parliament. They showed great interest in us but do not have an objective picture of what is happening in Russia. There is an alarming desire on the part of some members of the European parliament to impose on us their paths for the development of processes in Russia and to interfere in our internal affairs. Why do they criticize our existing Constitution or the development of democracy in our country? Why should we take as our model the U.S. Constitution which was adopted under a near-feudal regime?

The economic and political situation in Russia and personal mutual relations with the president—that was the range of questions broached during the meeting.

I am convinced that the all-Russia economic conference which is being prepared by the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers, and the republics, krays, and oblasts in the country and is due at the end of this month will help to critically analyze the existing situation and elaborate ways out of the crisis.

Political Issues

Kozyrev on Foreign Policy, Western Aid

LD1707164593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1335 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by correspondent Konstantin Borovoy; place and date not given; from the "Money and Politics" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Borovoy] In the past it seems that things were simpler. Well, there were nuclear weapons, and one could brandish them, these nuclear weapons. In general, my question is a simple one, what is simpler, to live in conditions in which we engage in blackmail, or in which we try to be civilized and try to enter this civilized community, and what does it mean for us to enter the civilized community?

[Kozyrev] Well, really, this is our choice, it is our problem, to decide what we want. If we want to look upon the outside world, particularly the highly developed world as hostile, then we must brandish nuclear weapons, but we have never received any economic benefit from that. Moreover, in economic terms no one was trading with us apart from taking our oil, taking our timber; that is really what our exports amounted to. But these are things to be exported only if a country is ready to divest itself and export only those things in order to purchase Canadian wheat, and this when Russia and Ukraine alone, could feed the whole world quite easily, you understand, if we had a normal economy, then, you know, this is just our good will.

[Borovoy] Why are they helping us? It is quite incomprehensible. We say rather often that there is no such thing as a free lunch. We also say that imperialists do not spend money for nothing. Why are they helping us? They are virtually paying for our entry ticket into the civilized community because at present we do not have any money but they are paying as a loan.

[Kozyrev] Let me give you the following example from domestic life. You have a good standard of living, but you have a neighbor. What best serves your interests? For him to drink, fight, behave like a hooligan? Then you put up an iron curtain against him, you bristle with missiles and he, himself, is in no state to set up anything other than missiles and threats.

But now, suddenly, this person begins to say, rather seriously, and everyone begins to take heed, that he wants to be a normal person and live in a normal home. He asks you for a loan, for money, for assistance, to teach him various things, to give money and so on. Do you give it to him? Yes, you do. Why? Well, to a certain extent from good motives of common humanity. But, mainly, because it is in your own interests, because it is in your interests to have a normal neighbor and not a drunken idiot. That is the whole answer to that question.

[Borovoy] I would like to turn to another issue, the aims of Russia's foreign policy. It is known that the military continue to live in the Soviet Union for many reasons; this way of thinking still exists. But regarding our foreign policy, is it not still the Soviet Union's foreign policy rather than Russia's? It is clear from what you have said that in any event we are taking on responsibility for the former republics of the Soviet Union.

[Kozyrev] Well, to a certain extent, we feel that responsibility and, of course, to a considerable extent one cannot get away from it. One does not just wake up one day and suddenly everything has totally changed as if by magic spells or by waving a magic wand.

Therefore, of course, this process is occurring to a considerable degree. There is both the process of demarcation, that is self-determination for the national states, and at the same time the process of reintegration between these new states.

[Borovoy] There is nevertheless an entirely new factor. Russia is no longer the Soviet Union. It is considerably smaller in territory and a considerably smaller country both economically and politically. Why nonetheless has the West handed the place of the Soviet Union precisely to Russia? What is the reason for this?

[Kozyrev] You know, smaller does not always mean worse. If one considers the potential in science and technology, and resources, there are some obvious facts despite all our respect for all the other new independent states. All are equal, but there is simply an objective authority in respect of economics, politics, science and technology, and so on.

[Borovoy] How do you think this is connected with the feature of the Russian character of being responsible not only for oneself but also for one's neighbors?

[Kozyrev] Well, you know, it is possible to think this, and everyone is always wanting to say that this is a unique feature, but whether or not it is true, expansiveness, kindness, and hospitality are certainly features of the Russian character. Then again it seems to me that we have taken a broader view of the world. Let us recall that after the Second World War the United States gave a direct leg up to Japan which was in a very grave situation and also to Germany—although, true, it was Western Germany and not unfortunately Eastern Germany—which had simply been to a considerable extent razed to the ground, including by the bombing of the Western allies and ourselves. I am merely giving the objective facts.

That is to say, they picked them up out of the ruins. So we can consider that this approach brings us closer to the United States. There is among our so-called patriots an anti-Americanism, but I am pro-American, because in actual fact many of these features—the readiness to help out, the breadth of view, and the sense, if you like, of oneself as a global power, the people feeling itself to be a global one, so to speak—in actual fact draw us closer to the United States.

[Borovoy] It is interesting that our former neighbors reason in roughly the same way. They—the former USSR republics, now independent states—they too believe that Russia is responsible both for their economic situation and for the new order in that part of the world.

[Kozyrev] Well, yes, to a certain extent. The interesting thing is that the situation is psychologically understandable. That is, as soon as an economic crash begins in this or that republic, as a result of both objective and subjective political mistakes, then they remember at once that they all have Russia as an elder brother; they come and say literally, in these words: Guys, you will not abandon us, right? Well, we do not abandon them. On the other hand, the very next day, as soon as things get better, they immediately remember about their sovereignty and so on. I mean it is a sort of driving force; that is probably both psychologically and politically understandable.

Here we have our—actually I am more concerned that we carry out the right policy. That is, if we support these republics competently, and constantly extend the hand of friendship and goodneighborliness toward them, we will have a normal space around us. If we follow the suggestions of our national patriots and try to dictate—that never worked anywhere, that kind of crude and insolent dictatorship. Of course, maybe someone will come begging for help, but he will remember that he did so. It is just the same between peoples as it is in personal life. If a person feels he is treated with respect, although he asks for help, that is one thing. If he is treated loutishly when he does so, he is certain to take vengeance later on.

Yeltsin Signs Decree on People's Friendship Award

LD1807090893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 18 ITAR-TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation signed a decree on awarding the Peoples' Friendship Order to poet Yevgeniy Yevtushenko for a great contribution to the development of national literature.

On Sunday [18 July] Yeltsin sent a congratulatory message to the poet on the occasion of his 60th birthday, the presidential press service announced.

"Your distinctive many-faceted talent vividly manifested itself way back in the now distant years of 'the thaw'. In those days the civic motivation of young poets played an immense role in the cultural and spiritual emancipation and awakening of people in Russia," the message said, in particular.

"Profound gratitude to you for your courage and unflinching devotion to the ideals of democracy and humanism which you upheld in the most dramatic days of our history, at all its turning points.

"One of the founders of the 'People of the 1960s' movement, you turn 60 today. But you are still restless and responsive to the concerns of our times. Russia still remains your chief and invariable symbol of faith. It is precisely poets that make it such a wonderful country," the president pointed out.

Yeltsin wished Yevtushenko new flights of his briliant talents, new ideas and new books.

The poet marks his birthday in St. Petersburg, where the presentation of his new book of verses entitled "Lyrics" is to be held. Yevtushenko's jubilee soiree is to be held at the Russia concert hall in Moscow on July 21.

Democratic Party Announces Plans for Multi-Party Bloc

LD1607160493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yulia Kantor]

[Text] St. Petersburg July 16 TASS—Viktor Talanov, leader of the Russian Democratic Party (RDP), held a press conference for local journalists here on Friday [16 July].

"The RDP will form blocs at an all-Russia level. It is ready to cooperate actively during the pre-election campaign with the Republican Party of the Russian Federation, the Party of Economic Liberty and the "Renovation" Union. The leaders of the parties have signed "an agreement on the beginning of consultations of representatives of the centre-right political parties and unions", said Talanov.

According to him, the parties intend to discuss at the consultations such issues as coordination of activities in Moscow and in the provinces; the creation of regional units of the new electoral bloc; putting up candidates at elections to all bodies of power; the creation of a joint pre-election programme as a basis for bringing together all the Russian political forces "which come out in support of democracy and market reforms, new Russian statehood and constitutionalism".

Civic Union: Events in Regions 'Warning' to Moscow

PM1607160993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Moscow Directs Parade of Sovereignties"]

[Text] The "Civic Union" bloc of political parties has placed responsibility for the parade of sovereignties on the federal authorities, who, in its opinion, "are clumsily trying to play on the conflicts between republics, krays, and oblasts in order to gain political support for themselves."

A contribution was also made by the organizers of the Constitutional Conference, which paved the way for an arbitrary, illegitimate review of the principles of building the Russian state, the statement circulated by the bloc says.

The regional authorities' actions indicate their growing political maturity and activeness and readiness to assume responsibility for the country's future and the welfare of its inhabitants. At the same time the recent history of the USSR's collapse indicates the serious danger of taking steps toward disintegration, which are much easier to take than to halt.

The events taking place in the regions are a final warning to the authorities. Continuing confrontation could make them unnecessary and take them beyond the framework of real political processes.

Attacks Foreign Policy 'Flops'

LD1607192093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1749 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The Civic Union, a Russian centrist bloc, has called on the Russian president, parliament and government to review the country's eastern policy and dismiss a number of people personally responsible for flops in this policy.

The Executive Committee of the Civic Union said in a statement circulated today that the declaration of economic union signed by Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and the former Soviet Central Asian republics posed a threat of serious weakening of Russia's positions in the region. This development of events is seen by the Civic Union as "the biggest foreign policy miscalculation of the present leadership of Russia".

The Civic Union said that damage done by pushing former Soviet republics "out of the rouble zone" cannot be evaluated in economic terms alone, but it is not yet too late to set the situation right.

The centrist bloc demands resignation of some people whom it sees as personally responsible for the flops in Russia's eastern policy.

Democrats Criticize Polyanichko, Government Appointments

MK1707110093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Nomenklatura Revanche Is a Reality"]

[Text] Yu. Chernichenko, L. Ponomarev, G. Yakunin, K. Borovoy and leaders of the other parties comprising the Public Committee of Democratic Organizations of Russia have addressed a message to President B. Yeltsin with an analysis of the Russian Government's personnel policy. The committee proceeds from the necessity to consolidate the key links of the executive branch by bringing in consistent advocates of democracy and removing opponents of reforms from government structures. The negative assessment of the privatization program and of the efforts of the reformist wing (A. Chubays, B. Fedorov among others) at a recent closed-door session of the Council of Ministers presidium, the actual restoration to the former Vice Premier G. Khizha of his former rights, as well as some other facts, compel a conclusion about a heightened activity of anti-reform forces which are revising the April referendum results.

The authors of the message are especially worried by the appointment of V. Polyanichko to the post of head of the emergency situation area in the North Caucasus in the rank of vice premier. A former sector head in the CPSU Central Committee propaganda department, adviser to Babrak Karmal on political and ideological questions, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, and chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, he belonged to the CPSU top party nomenklatura directly responsible for the tragic consequences of the current interstate conflicts in the Caucasus.

The USSR Prosecutor's Office—proceeding from the results of an inquest conducted by the organs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and Armenia backed by a vast number of eyewitness accounts, the statement made by a group of Russian deputies, the conclusions made by experts of the International Sakharov Congress, and the materials of a long hearing at an RSFSR Supreme Soviet Human Rights Committee session—filed criminal proceedings against V. Polyanichko and other officials in the summer of 1991. The proceedings were not brought to a conclusion because of the August putsch, the breakup of the USSR, and the elimination of the USSR Prosecutor's Office.

The authors assessed V. Polyanichko's new appointment as deliberate disrespect of the law, morals, and public opinion. The anti-reform part of the government, which compromises its own statement of being committed to democracy by making such appointments, cannot count on our support.

Parliament Opposition's Meeting With Zorkin Viewed

MK1607120093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 4

[Aleksandr Balashov report: "Zorkin Meets With Deputies. Opposition Wanted To Put Pressure on Constitutional Court"]

[Text] Details became known yesterday of the meeting the day before between Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin with delegates of the Moscow Committee for the Protection of the Constitution and the Constitutional System. According to official information, the committee delegates briefed Zorkin on the objectives and areas of their public activities. They also handed him a petition on verification of the constitutionality of the president's edict of 24 May 1993 "On the Approval of Temporary Regulations for the Serving of Notices to Executive Bodies of Moscow on Holding Marches, Demonstrations, and Picketing on Streets, Squares, and other Open Spaces of the City." According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, the real purpose of the meeting was an attempt to put pressure on the Constitutional Court and embroil it in another political adventure.

Seen against the backdrop of the heightened political struggle around the method for the adoption of a new constitution, Valeriy Zorkin's meeting with members of the Moscow Committee for the Protection of the Constitution and the Constitutional System looks far from being incidental. Opposition deputies of the Supreme Soviet and the Moscow Soviet comprising this committee (in particular, Vladimir Rebrikov and Sergey Belashov who attended the meeting) have long been known for their predilection for holding meetings and marches. KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts expect that they would necessarily try to derail the process of adoption of a new constitution by again taking to the streets along with their followers. The restrictions on the holding of mass actions in Moscow, contained in the president's edict, may, however, prevent them from going full steam ahead. Which is why they decided to seek the Constitutional Court chairman's support.

Valeriy Zorkin's latest moves indicate, however, that he would not be in a hurry to look into the very politicized matters. That this is so is seen at least in the fact that the Constitutional Court's immediate plans do not include any case on protection of the Russian vice president's status. Nonetheless, Ruslan Khasbulatov's followers are trying, as before, to use the Constitutional Court in their struggle for power. KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported on 14 July that the judges decided to hear, after the summer vacations, the case dealing with checking on correspondence with the Fundamental Law of the president's edict "On Putting into Action the System of Privatization Checks in the Russian Federation." The very next day parliament raised the question of suspending the edict until after the court's decision. And yet the main issue is the mode for the adoption of the constitution whose presidential draft will be sent to parliament any day now. In the opinion of KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, the opposition plans to time its manifestations precisely to that moment.

Deputy Security Minister on Past Terrorism

OW1907085593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 28 June 93

[Studio interview with Lieutenant General Andrey Petrovich Bykov, deputy minister of security, by Mikhail Solntsev; date not given; interview preceded by video report; from the "Utro" program—recorded]

[Text] [Solntsev] And now to events that took place in Moscow 15 years ago.

[Begin recording] [Brazhnikov] In Latin, the word terror means fear, or dread. Terror has firmly established itself in the criminal environment as a means to achieve sordid political or openly criminal goals through explosions, arson, hijacking of planes, and taking of hostages. By its very nature, terror is an act of impotence by provocateurs and extremists, who are incapable of fighting an open fight out of cowardice, and therefore, viciously strike at innocent people from cover. Explosions of homemade bombs in crowded places and at means of public transportation are particularly dangerous.

Today, we are telling a 15-year-old story which still echoes painfully in the hearts of many people. It began 8 January 1977, when 7 people died and about 40 were wounded in Moscow. [video shows train station, interview with V. Dmitriyev, a subway train driver]

[Dmitriyev] I am the driver of the train which followed the train that was blown up. I stopped about 25 meters before the station, and saw that the train was standing still and people seemed to be walking around it. I opened the door, jumped to the rails, took a flashlight and the train controller handle, and ran toward the other train. I dashed into the car and my feet [words indistinct] the blood was that deep there [shows with his hands], there were things scattered all over, people maimed, there was blood and moans. There was a child of 12 or 13 with skis in a black training suit. He was full of shards. A woman was waving some kind of bloodied crimson coat. It was terrible to look at it. People dragged or carried whoever they could. You can imagine how it was. It is scary to grab a wounded person, he is both very heavy and you are afraid to cause him more pain. The thought that someone can blow up live people, can intentionally put this bomb and blow it up—one just could not comprehend it.

[Brazhnikov] The homemade explosive device was exploded at 17:33 in a subway train between Izmaylovskoye and Pervomayskaya stations. Two more explosions thundered half an hour later in 25-go Oktyabrya Street, called Nikolskaya today. One exploded in a food store, the other tore apart a garbage can near the window of another store. The search for criminals began. [video shows an interview with Major General V.V. Filipovskiy]

[Filipovskiy] The search was conducted practically all over the country, and our country's whole system of state security organs were called upon to participate in it. We managed to reconstruct the explosive device's configuration, which was constructed in a casserole dish. [video shows shots of a cast iron casserole dish assembled from fragments, model of explosive timing device] More than 37 various investigative and expert and industrial and technological organizations participated in the research. Such institutions as the All-Union Institute of Forensic Expertise, Criminal Sub-Division of the Ministry of Interior, institutes of the Academy of Science, and branch institutes conducted energetic work in examining the material evidence.

[Brazhnikov] Hundreds of state security and militia operatives watched train and subway stations and airports. The criminals arrived in Moscow at the end October of the same year to carry out a new terrorist act, but discovering that all public places were tightly controlled by security forces, they hastily fled the capital, leaving a bag containing personal belongings and three deadly homemade devices. [video shows shots of bag, three explosive devices]

Fingerprints of (Zakityan), a resident of Yerevan who had an earlier conviction, were found on the inside of a dial cover of one of the devices. Zakityan and his accomplices, Stepanyan and Bagdasaryan, were arrested after several days. The trial fully proved the terrorists' guilt, which determined the harsh punishment: death by firing squad. [video cuts to show black and white footage of trial; Stepanyan speaks in Armenian with a subsequent Russian translation by unseen interpreter]

[Unseen questioner] So where did the explosions take place?

[Stepanyan] One explosion took place in the subway, another in a store at 25-go Oktyabrya Street, and another in a garbage can on the same street.

[Unseen questioner] Did he understand that people would die, innocent people and his fellow Armenians among them?

[Stepanyan] I knew that a bomb would go off, and that there would be victims. [video shows Bagdasaryan speaking]

[Bagdasaryan] I cannot deny it. I put the bomb in the garbage can, and I knew that it would go off. [video shows bombing victim A.M. Serebrinova speaking]

[Serebrinova] When we approached the Pervomayskaya station, I jumped out of the middle door. I remember that very few people got out. A woman sat in front of me hugging her child tightly. I remember that she had a red coat on. I got out and looked back and saw that people were lying in a heap. It was something terrible. [video shows courtroom while unidentified narrator speaks]

[Narrator] Zakityan, the leader of the terrorist group, showed himself to be a rabid and fanatical nationalist from the very beginning of the trial. [video shows Zakityan speaking in broken Russian]

[Zakityan] I have already stated many times that I refuse your kangaroo court and need no attorneys. I am a prosecutor myself, not a defendant. You have no power to put me to trial because the kike and Russian empire is not a rule-of-law state. One must remember this firmly.

Armenia gets absolutely no benefit or reward from Russia today, but you do. So, if there is a misfortune, it will only be a misfortune for you, but not for us because we have nothing to lose. I also want to say a few words to my friends, because we will not...

[Narrator, interrupting] Zakityan concluded his appearance with a call in Armenian: Tell others that all we have now is revenge, revenge, and revenge again. [video cuts to show Moscow street scenes while Brazhnikov comments]

[Brazhnikov] Revenge against whom? Women? Children? And what for? For the centuries-old tradition of help and mutual assistance? Who is the target of the revenge of the journalist Nataliya Givarkyan and the lawyer Sergey Grigoriyants, and why? They are trying to present this crime as a KGB provocation, and declare Zakityan to be an innocent victim of repressive organs. The proof of the criminals' guilt is indisputable, and their followers again will be stopped by firm actions of the Russian security services. [video shows a scroll flashing across the screen. It reads: Between 1986 and 1991, 260 crimes connected to explosions were committed in the Soviet Union. In 1992 alone, there were 240 such crimes in Russia. In 1992, 38 people died from such crimes, and 124 were wounded] [video then cuts to show Ostankino "Utro" studio, were Mikhail Solntsev continues his program]

[Solntsev] Dear viewers, the item you have just seen was shot by the Ministry of Security Public Relations Center. Our program's guest is directly connected to this item. It is my pleasure to introduce him: Lieutenant-General Andrey Petrovich Bykov, deputy minister of security of the Russian Federation. Good morning, Comrade General.

[Bykov] Good morning viewers.

[Solntsev] This crime was committed 16 years ago. Did you have anything to do with investigating it then when the trail was still hot?

[Bykov] Yes, I was directly involved in these events, and the item we have seen today reminded me of those tragic days and the serious crime that had to be investigated not only by the then KGB but also by many other law enforcement organs.

[Solntsev] The technical means of forensic expertise, which is what you still deal with at the ministry, played a major role then. What can you say about it?

[Bykov] This is natural. This kind of crime was one of the most difficult to solve, and it was also a very grave one. Of course, you can say that it is enough to remember the tragedy on Dmitrivskiy Highway on 24 June, when more people died. But that tragedy was the result of criminal negligence and irresponsibility, while what we have here is a case of evil intent, which led to the death of many innocent people. Of course, to investigate such cases we have to mobilize the most modern methods—from the simple to the most modern methods of chemical analysis, and all the methods of mass spectrography, including nuclear magnetic resonance and other methods of investigation existing today in scientific practice.

[Solntsev] The technical method of investigation of the various crimes—how do they compare to the world level, to the level of the various capitalists countries?

[Bykov] From the point of view of the methodological basis, these methods are comparable, and are carried out with the aid of equipment which corresponded to the world's level existing in 1977. Among others, academic institutes were mobilized, such as the institutes of the Academy of Sciences and branch institutes, institutes of the Ministry of Justice, and a whole range of technical subdivisions In principle, there were over 50 organizations mobilized to carry out expert work. I cannot remember the exact number.

[Solntsev] It was 16 years ago.

[Bykov] Yes, 16 years. From the moment the ministry was created through the two basic laws which determine its activities, the investigation of such cases is still under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Security. These structures have been preserved, and the basis has been maintained at a fairly modern level. However, I have to say that the hard economic situation of the past several years is of course reflected in the ability to strengthen this basis. We also have to limit both use of hard currency and of financing since there are difficulties with allocating these sums to the Ministry of Security. However, existing equipment allows us to solve similar cases at a fairly high level, with the possible exception of the several most advanced methods recently developed abroad, but which we are also working on—such as the genetic [word indistinct].

[Solntsev] This is to determine the criminal clues left behind by a felon.

[Bykov] Of course.

[Solntsev] The popular rumor is that your ministry totally controls the minds and the moods of the populace through the most modern of technical means. Naturally, you will deny it.

[Bykov] Why? I would answer that a certain amount of control has been, is, and will be carried out, the same as it is carried out throughout the world. The Russian security organs will not renounce these methods neither now nor in the future, because they have to implement laws which call for all this to be done. The main thing is to observe legality and guarantee the security of the citizen, society, and the state first and foremost—in this order. I would like to clarify this. I have already spoken with correspondents, this question has already been asked, and the myth that the organs' abilities are limitless and that every person is under control are simply groundless, for the simple reason that it is technically, economically, and even purely humanly impossible. In any case, even in the ideal case of only one person controlling another, we will need 2 million operatives for Moscow alone if we reckon its adult population at 2 million people. This is not realistic. The total number of employees of the Ministry of Security, excluding border troops, is set at 135,000 by President Yeltsin's decree. This covers all of Russian territory, and includes all the services: maintenance, medical, construction, and building guards. Actually, I will not give any new numbers, I have already given them at a briefing—specific technical services which carry this measure out number slightly over 1,000 people. True, technical and electronic means do allow us to use these people's abilities more efficiently. But I repeat, these abilities are not limitless, and the means are very expensive.

[Solntsev] I do not know the situation in other cities of Russia or of the former USSR, but stores selling foreign equipment for espionage or counterespionage have appeared in Moscow. How do you feel about the appearance of parallel structures, so to speak, which sell equipment parallel to yours?

[Bykov] We have been worried about this question for a long time, as has been the Ministry of Interior and the prosecutor's office. When the law on private investigational activity was adopted, the Ministry of Security and the MVD submitted their suggestions that certain restrictions on such sales and activities be introduced. As a rule, all this equipment is usually employed against specific people, and by contending criminal organizations which pursue their own mercenary goals. These acts create a certain climate, and are often attributed to law enforcing organs even if we have nothing to do with it. The amendments and changes introduced into the adopted laws by the Supreme Soviet, such as the amendment to the law on federal organs of state security, which has already passed the first reading, or the appendix for operative and investigative activities, which is being prepared for its first reading. These will clearly define the legal limits of activities of the organs, and will establish a more strict authorization procedure. However, it will be made to correspond to criminal laws already adopted, such as the criminal procedure code. We will again draw the legislature's attention to the need to introduce clear legal norms and limits. If the law prescribes a strictly specific sphere of activity to an investigative bureau or agency, these agencies should not trespass these limits, and any such violation should be grounds for criminal persecution. By the way, laws regulating the Ministry of Security's activities prescribe criminal persecution for our violating anything defined by that law. Any Russian citizen has the right, and, in my understanding, is even under obligation to file criminal charges in the case of...

[Solntsev interrupting] In the case that he finds out that he is being illegally followed or listened to through some kind of electronic devices?

[Bykov] Naturally.

[Solntsev] They have to be discovered first.

[Bykov] Otherwise, why just listen? The information that he is being listened to will either leak out and he will find out about it, in which case he has the right to press charges. [sentences as heard] By the way, there is a wonderful article of law in the United States, which says that if telephone tapping was carried out on a territory protected by law, the material thus obtained is considered illegal and cannot be presented and reviewed in court.

[Solntsev] There is a problem I would like to ask you to comment on. The trial of terrorists in Moscow—what is your personal impression? There was some talk at the time that there were clues pointing to a foreign connection.

[Bykov] When this event took place—I do not want to hide it—there were different opinions about this grave crime, and one of the versions examined was that the initiators of this crime were outside of the Soviet Union—there still was a Soviet Union at the time. But this version was dismissed fairly early on, especially after the capture of three explosive devices meant for the second bombing attempt, and the following detention of Stepanyan and Bagdasaryan, who had brought these devices to Moscow and were supposed to place them along the route of the October demonstration. The version that the source was inside the Union and that the initiators were in the country was verified at that time. Although this crime was not initiated from abroad, such a version was scrutinized, and a large volume of work has been carried out by what is now the Foreign Intelligence Service.

By the way, since we have already touched upon the subject, it would be suitable to say that the division of the former KGB, the one that we used to call a monster—its division into the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Agency for Government Communication, the main Directorate for Protection of State Officials, and the border guards who have returned to the fold of the Ministry for Security—well, this division did little good but caused a fair amount of trouble in work and the coordination of action. Today's acute problem is the coordination of intelligence and counterintelligence action because as a rule, this process is an uninterrupted one. All intelligence efforts toward Russia may flow from both outside and inside. [sentence as heard] Therefore, coordination of efforts is needed here. Certain questions about the creation of some kind of intelligence association are being seriously considered today.

[Solntsev] Andrey Petrovich, I would like to thank you for answering the "Utro" program questions. We had with us Lieutenant General Andrey Petrovich Bykov, deputy minister of security. Thank you, Comrade General.

[Bykov] Thank you.

Press House Protests 'Criminal Insinuations'

PM1907100193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

["Own Information" report: "Russian Press House Public Council Protest"]

[Text] The Russian Press House Public Council, representing 33 editorial offices of organs of the mass media and democratic public organizations, has sent the press a letter containing a resolute protest against the campaign to discredit its activities in a number of press organs.

The letter says that the aim of the fuss is to attempt not so much to discredit the Russian Press House itself in the eyes of the public, as to hit on the rebound the Russian Federal Information Center, led by M. Poltoranin, which funds the Russian Press House. It is no accident, the letter says, that a stream of distorted information containing various criminal insinuations began pouring forth while the Supreme Soviet session was investigating the case of the Berlin House of Culture. The letter's authors see the same guiding hand behind this.

The Russian Press House was founded in accordance with an edict of the Russian Federation president and is a commercial state company not financed out of the state budget and created to provide favorable working conditions for the independent press. The Russian Press House houses 33 editorial offices of newspapers, journals, radio and television networks, and democratic public press organizations. They have all been given a preferential rent for their offices, and the children's newspaper GLAGOL [THE WORD] get them free. The editorial offices and public organizations, which occupy 4,500 square meters in the Russian Press House, each paid 100 rubles [R] per square meter in 1992, and in 1993, taking inflation into account, they are on the whole paying R1,000. Whereas all expenses for maintaining the building for the first nine months of last year amounted to R39,284,000, the income from renting premises to editorial offices, newspapers, journals, and radio and television networks amounts to less than R400,000, which is about 1 percent of the Russian Press House's total expenditure.

The Russian Press House is able to grant such concessions by renting out its premises to commercial structures, and also by relying on its own commercial activities. Here are the figures: Nineteen commercial structures occupying about 2,000 square meters at the Russian Press House and paying between R180,000 and R240,000 per square meter cover 97 percent of all the expenditure. Apart from this, they, as an act of charity, finance events held by the Russian Press House Public Council, extra payments on top of the pensions of journalist war veterans, and material assistance to a number of newspapers and to the Association of Journalist War Veterans.

This is the truth about the Russian Press House, which is far removed from the conjecture of those who have "unmasked" it. The Russian Press House Public Council hopes that the general public will understand its position. The letter was signed on behalf of the Russian Press House Public Council by representatives of 24 publications, including the newspapers TRUD, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, GOLOS, LITERATURNYYE NOVOSTI, and VECHERNIY KLUB, the Russian Association of Journalist War Veterans, and the journals NADEZHDA, SELSKAYA NOV [Rural Virgin Soil] and others.

Media Workers Plan Protests Against 'Watchdog Boards'

LD1907132093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow July 19 TASS—Executives of major Russian TV and radio broadcasting companies called amendments to the mass media law, adopted recently by the Russian Parliament, an attempt to grab "the fourth power".

They said at a news conference held at the Russian Press House on Monday [19 July] that the Ostankino Company, the Russian TV and Radio Broadcasting Company and "Peterburg-5 Kanal" requested the Russian president to veto the adopted amendments. They also plan to appeal to the Constitutional Court.

First Deputy Chairman of the Ostankino Company Kirill Ignatyev said that if the legislature starts setting up a system of watchdog boards (a federal freedom of speech board at the State TV and Radio Broadcasting Network is to start operations on August 12), TV and radio broadcasting companies may organise protests.

He did not reply what forms protests will assume but noted that the interests of TV viewers will not be affected in any case.

Executives of TV and radio broadcasting companies are not optimistic about their future. Inadequate state financing can bring them to the verge of bankruptcy even in September.

At the same time, parliament forbids TV and radio companies to become joint stock societies and appropriates 140 million roubles to finance the federal board which will mostly consist of representatives from parliamentary groups.

Russian Television head Oleg Poptsov expressed perplexity over light-mindedness, with which lawmakers decide the fate of radio and television.

President of the Openness Protection Fund Aleksey Simonov reminded the gathering of journalist solidarity, since the attack on the freedom of speech will not be limited only to restrictions against TV and radio journalists.

Economic Issues

Ruble's 'Unexpected Doggedness' Against Dollar Viewed

PM1907140393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[A. Yevgenyev report under the "Commentary" rubric: "Has the Ruble Decided To Fight the Dollar? Well,..."]

[Text] From 16 June through 15 July the dollar's exchange rate fell from 1,116 rubles [R] to R1,025.

After a long and apparently hopeless retreat in the struggle against the dollar, our ruble has shown unexpected doggedness. For around a month now its exchange rate on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange has not only not been falling, but has even been getting stronger little by little. The ruble's strengthening here has been accompanied by an increase in the supply of foreign currency for sale. What does all this mean? We asked economist Mikhail Delyagin to comment on the situation.

"What is happening to the ruble is, of course, no accident. First, the tightening up of the government's financial and credit policy has had an effect—there are fewer 'free' rubles in circulation. Second, the rules of foreign currency regulation have changed. From 1 July exporters were given the right to sell 50 percent of their foreign currency earnings rather than 20 percent as before. In addition, the so-called open foreign currency position was introduced. In other words, the volume of foreign currency acquired by a bank with its own funds has been made dependent on the amount of its incorporation capital. This has forced many banks to discard foreign currency surpluses by putting them in the same auctions. Finally, the seasonal factor has played its part. Mass vacations began in June and people are being paid holiday pay, naturally in rubles.

"The ruble rate held steady for some time at approximately the same rate. Speculative foreign currency transactions, whereby you bought dollars and German marks in order to sell them a little later after they had gained in value, ceased being advantageous. Hot rubles moved to other markets—securities and real estate. Especially as privatization is making them increasingly attractive to investors. Thus, short-term factors were superimposed, as it were, on long-term factors, which is what caused the ruble's unexpected steadiness.

"How long can it last? Continuing inflation is undermining the ruble's strength, so in all probability its exchange rate will once again start to fall in the near future. I think, however, that the dollar is unlikely to be worth more than R1,250 by the beginning of September."

Dangers Seen in Freeing Energy Prices

PM1907100993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 1

[Article by Nikolay Gorlov: "Free, Albeit Supervised. How Energy Price Liberalization Will Affect the Economy and Our Pockets"]

[Text] The three rocks on which the Russian economy is built—oil, gas, and coal—have started to move, and as a result everything on top is in a state of trepidation. Prices of the "three sources, the three components" of our well-being have been set free, although they are still under state supervision for the moment. What do we want and what can we expect in this connection?

The energy strategy blueprint approved by the Russian Federation Government back in September last year talks of the need to shape a prices policy which approximates the world correlation between prices of energy and prices of other industrial products. At every level there has also regularly been talk, albeit in rather vague terms, of the need to bring our prices more into line with world levels. In principle, both strategic goals are correctly defined—in order to overcome Russia's economic autarchy, it is necessary to abide by the generally accepted rules of the game, although a number of circumstances have to be taken into account.

In the first place, bringing prices into line with world levels means increasing energy prices many times over, given the present ruble exchange rate. For comparison's sake we will cite some average world market prices (in U.S. dollars per tonne): oil—120; coking coal—50; power industry coal—26; natural gas—83 per 1,000 cubic meters. In most European countries one liter of gasoline costs around $1. As we can see, the idea of world prices gives our fuel and power complex broad scope for further raising the prices of its products, although this does not mean that we will actually come close to the world level. In 1990 the domestic price of oil in our country was 40 percent of the world price, while this April it was only 21 percent, as a result of the disastrous fall in the rate of the ruble against the dollar.

The problem of world energy prices cannot be viewed in isolation from the general level of prices and of the incomes of the people in a particular country. The average European can now buy 16 tonnes of oil at world prices for one month's pay, while an average Russian would not manage one even at current domestic prices. Bringing prices closer to world prices could make the products of many of our industrial sectors uncompetitive. For instance, the price of our metal would be higher than the world price if the price of coal were to increase fourfold. Moreover, world energy prices would only make economic sense with a convertible ruble and a proper market infrastructure.

Changing the correlation between energy prices and the prices of products of other national economic sectors is also an extremely complex matter. According to Fuel and Energy Ministry data, electricity prices in the United States are 100 times higher than in Russia, while prices of industrial products are only twice as high. So if they want to right the balance, our power workers would have to supply machine builders with electricity at a price 50 times higher, while demanding machine tools and equipment at the old price.

The Fuel and Energy Ministry reckons that raising energy prices and increasing the energy component in the price of the end product several times over would make enterprises economize on energy. That is what happens in a market economy with a normal competitive environment. But our cost-led pricing mechanism operates as before: If electricity becomes more expensive, the end product becomes more expensive as well.

Higher energy prices will stimulate energy saving to some extent, of course, but one should not be too optimistic here. Energy saving is not just a matter of "turning off the light when you go out." New technologies and materials are needed, and this work will take decades even with a strong coordinating center and adequate investments. Simplistic macroeconomic approaches to pricing in the fuel and power complex could have disastrous consequences at the microeconomic level. For instance, the Fuel and Energy Ministry proposed raising electricity charges above the cost price for all consumers. Everything looked fine on paper: Payments for electricity will account for the same proportion of the family budget as in 1990. Electricity constitutes only a small percentage of the cost of agricultural products. A closer examination of this idea reveals that there are some far from "average" problems behind the average figures. Some 50 million Russians can scarcely make ends meet, so an increase in rates would be a serious blow for them. Certainly, electricity constitutes on average a small percentage of the cost of agricultural products, but it is well above average in livestock raising, while an increase in electricity and energy prices would mean immediate ruin for greenhouse farmers.

All that has gone before suggests that it is extremely dangerous in energy policy to rely entirely on the beneficial effect of market forces.

As far as ordinary consumers are concerned, the liberalization of energy prices will inevitably result in the intensification of inflationary processes. Although the government says that it will not allow a significant fall in living standards and that the Economics Ministry's forecasts of a reduction in the monthly rate of inflation to 10 percent by the end of the year take the "energy factor" into account.

Commission To Coordinate Coal, Metal Pricing Policy

PM1907121793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Leskov report: "President Has Deregulated Coal Prices, but Power Industry Officials Will Regulate Them"]

[Text] The edict by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on deregulating coal prices from 1 July 1993 has provoked an unequivocal reaction from leaders of the coal industry and related sectors. On 14 July Ivan Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, announced the formation of a consultative commission which comprises representatives of the coal and metallurgical sectors and should coordinate their joint pricing policy.

It is known that, while the presidential edict was being drawn up, it came up against active opposition from the Ministry of Fuel and Energy and the "Ugol Rossii" Joint-Stock Company. But at that moment Finance Minister B. Fedorov's viewpoint gained the upper hand: It was impossible to continue subsidizing low coal prices from the state budget and to continually breath new life into the dozens of loss-making mines, which will, to our common good, inevitably go bust after deregulation.

But it is a long way from the planning stage to implementation. When it got as far as producing a mechanism for implementing the edict, the sector officials seized the initiative. A stormy conference of leaders of the coal and metallurgy industries went on for several days in Moscow. The metallurgical industry's extremely weak position was explained by the fact that after coal price deregulation, coal prices rose eight- or tenfold in certain mining regions, for example in Pechorskiy Basin. For the metallurgical industry this is really ruinous, as in this sector where the technology is backward and the equipment antiquated, coal accounts for 40 percent of the price of metal.

As Federal Metallurgy Committee Chairman S. Afonin predicted, the increase in the price of Russian metal effectively deprives the sector of the chance to export. With very little foreign currency coming in, this accounts for a significant amount of extra money for the treasury: Depending on the degree of processing, between 20 and 40 percent of Russian metal is exported today.

Apart from this, A. Yevtushenko, Russian deputy minister of fuel and energy, considers that the outwardly profitable deregulation of coal prices will backfire on the miners, who will be forced to purchase metal products at several times their present price. And this will, in turn, lead to a new round of inflation, and just the same to the unavoidable bankruptcy of those unprofitable enterprises.

The result of the coal and metallurgical industry officials' long negotiations was a decision to found a consultative commission. It is for the moment unclear in what way it will influence the level of prices, as according to existing regulations the mines themselves are corporate entities as regards economic activities and have more than once shown their independence from the Moscow leadership. However, hints by the sector leaders imply that they are holding harsh measures in reserve for those who violate the convention.

The experts think that the most likely result of the consultative commission's activities will be extreme pressure on the government in order to obtain new subsidies, the abolition of customs tariffs for metallurgical enterprises, and the creation of a system of protectionism for our producers, even if their level of technology is low.

First Vice Premier O. Soskovets used the experience of the European Coal and Steel Community, founded back in 1953, as proof of the need for such a commission. But the expedience of subsidies for the coal industry is proved by the fact that this sector gets a 70-percent subsidy from the state budget in the FRG. However, it is necessary to recognize that we resort to Western examples in a selective manner, and that for every example there is a counter-example refuting it. You only have to look at Britain where the coal sector is traditionally strong but which has not joined the European Coal and Steel Community. But in the United States, where the structures and scale of the key sectors are most like those of Russia, the mining industry does not at all get by without government subsidies.

Land Inventory To Be Drawn Up for Possible Allotting

LD1807130393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow July 18 TASS—The Government of Russia has issued a resolution on drawing up an inventory of lands with a view to determining the possibility of providing citizens with land allotments.

The resolution, circulated on Sunday [18 July], has it that land will be taken stock of in implementation of the Russian president's decree, dated April 23, "on additional measures for the provision of citizens with land allotments".

Land of all categories that are not used in agricultural production is subject to stock-taking.

The Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management has been instructed to draw up an inventory of land together with local executive power bodies with an eye to a possible distribution of land among citizens subsequently for individual house construction, orcharding, personal subsidiary farming and other purposes.

Head of New Taxation Police Service Outlines Duties

LD1607194993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Interview with V. Yampolskiy, head of the Federal Taxation Police Department, by correspondent G. Fadeyeva on 16 July in Moscow; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Fadeyeva] It is not for nothing that this building in central Moscow does not yet carry any signs. This is understandable since the Russian law on the federal taxation police bodies, which will now be housed here, appeared only yesterday. It is an independent department. [video shows interview with Yampolskiy in his office]

[Yampolskiy] It will be engaged on exposing, preventing, and curtailing tax crime and infringements by means of operational investigative measures.

[Fadeyeva] This incidentally means surveillance and eavesdropping. The staff members of the new department will be engaged precisely on operational work. In the main they are former officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Security, and the Foreign Intelligence Service. For the concealment of large or particularly large incomes, corresponding to 50 or 100 times the minimum wage, the penalty will be up to five years' imprisonment and fines, sometimes involving confiscation and sometime not. How many infringements in practice has your service already uncovered?

[Yampolskiy] We have already uncovered 1,300 infringements by firms over the past six months.

[Fadeyeva] A total of 90 billion rubles has thereby been transferred to the budget. Do you have any fears about corruption in your own directorate?

[Yampolskiy] In general we have no fears, although people are people. I think that the overwhelming majority at the present time are not corrupt.

Independent Unions Insist on Talks With Government

LD1607164593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1553 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The leaders of the Russian Independent Trade Unions' Federation (FITUR) insist on immediate talks with government officials on a wide range of socio-economic issues. If these talks are not crowned with success, the Federation will call its members for collective actions in various forms—from picketing administrative buildings to mass strikes.

The FITUR presidium, which met in session in Moscow today, called for tough actions in defence of hired labour suffering from the realities of the uncivilised market.

According to a tentative poll, this tactics is supported by over 30 sectoral and the absolute majority of regional trade union organisations. Collective actions are expected to reach their peak in September-October.

FITUR Deputy Chairman Vasiliy Romanov, who addressed the session, said "the ill-considered price-setting policy, primarily towards energy resources, which is being pursued by the government, heightened social tensions in worker collectives, complicated the situation on the labour market and pushed down steeply the living standard of the majority of Russians."

Participants in the session stated that the government simply ignored the proposals elaborated by the FITUR's Committee for Collective Actions and aimed primarily at stabilising the operation of enterprises and streamlining the mechanism of money settlements with the population.

The presidium of the FITUR Council adopted a resolution saying that the Cabinet of Ministers' activity "runs counter to the general agreement and the principles of social partnership and does not promote peace and accord in society."

Military Issues

Shaposhnikov on Collective Security Concept

LD1607170293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1222 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] [Announcer] A conference on the theme of "Conception of Russian Federation Security: Problems of its development and implementation" has started its work today. Our commentator Yuriy Korotkov has the details.

[Korotkov] If you think that we need not protect ourselves from anybody but thieves, murderers, rapists, and other criminal elements, you are seriously mistaken. Dangers are looming from everywhere: From nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons, accumulated during the many years of confrontation, from information pirates who aptly penetrate the most sophisticated information systems; from nuclear power stations that can go down the Chernobyl path any minute; from industrial espionage that is flourishing more and more in the competitive environment.

Our servicemen who are fulfilling their duty in the hotbeds of our country, the Russian-speaking population who live in former Soviet Union countries are also threatened. There are dangers of foreign political, defense, social, and even ecological nature—natural disasters, earthquakes, floods, and so on.

This macabre picture was drawn in Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov's report to the participants of the conference. Former commander of CIS Allied Forces, he is now secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council. He also put forward, there and then, his concept of ensuring general security. What is its pivotal idea? During the interval, I asked Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov himself to describe it.

[Begin recording] [Shaposhnikov] One individual cannot take it upon himself to resolve this conglomerate of issues. By the same token, it is impossible to resolve them within the framework of the old system that came into shape when a small number of people decided things in a narrow circle, just about in a whisper, and then went on to resolve their intra-departmental problems.

A coordinating body is needed, that would base its decisions on a true picture of the state of affairs in security, and on a scientific approach to solving problems. Unfortunately, this science that we have been discussing here today is not united by one common design either. I am not aspiring and have never aspired toward putting more prominence into my own position. I believe, however, that if a scientific research center were to work under the Security Council—instead of a host of analytical and other centers that exist in all branches of power, again generating parochialism—if departments had their own science, then we would enhance the role of the Security Council as a whole. Now we do not even have a representative of the judicial power in the Security Council, we keep speaking of harmony of the three branches of authority—but we do not have it there, we do not have this permanent judicial member—this is also a flaw.

To cut it short we need a comprehensive approach, tied in with the interests of the state.

[Korotkov] So, you want to undertake this unifying mission.

[Shaposhnikov] I am raising the issue. I believe every intelligent person will agree with the main positions of my report, and if we fail to move in this direction, we will continue to be locked in our own shells.

After the conference I intend to present an analytical paper to the president on all these problems, and on other problems that will be discussed today, and to put forward specific proposals in this area.

[Korotkov] Did you have talks with the Russian president beforehand?

[Shaposhnikov] I told him we need a concept.

[Korotkov] Does he support it?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes he does. [end recording]

[Korotkov] It remains to be said that Pavel Grachev, Sergey Stankevich, Gennadiy Osipov, Aleksandr (Piskunov), Yevgeniy Abramov, Sergey Shoygu, Georgiy Arbatov, and other participants developed Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's ideas in their speeches. Unfortunately, the press was not allowed to attend subsequent sessions.

Further on Concept of Security

LD1607214393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] New political realities as a result of the disintegration of the USSR are insistently demanding that an integral concept of Russian security be created. In particular, this was discussed at a news conference by Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council. Vyacheslav Osipov reports.

[Osipov] New Russia does not have a concept of security. Acting Security Council Secretary Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov drew attention to this obvious fact. First of all, Shaposhnikov said, the notion of security for Russia should be defined since it ranges from the security of an individual to the security of the state. This cannot be done without coordinating the work in one body. The Security Council and one of the scientific institutes of the Russian Federation should be this body. Shaposhnikov particularly stressed the following:

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] The problem of security cannot be resolved effectively without defining the main directions of foreign and internal policy, economy, ecology, information science, social and nationalities policy, and so on. Without studying them scientifically and without justifying them, it is also impossible to talk seriously about defining these directions. For example, take foreign policy. It looks as if it would be difficult for an ordinary citizen of the Russian Federation to answer the following question: What is the Russian policy with regard to foreign countries that were formerly part of the USSR, in partucular, in the Caucasus? [end recording]

[Osipov] Expanding his views on the events in the Caucasian region, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said Russia should try to stop the war and should not take sides. Among top priority measures for increasing the level of Russian security, the secretary of the Security Council mentioned the creation of an effective mechanism for ensuring the security of the CIS member-states. Our countries are destined to cooperate and they cannot do without it, Shaposhnikov said. The disintegration of the commonwealth is fraught with negative consequences for Russia. He also condemned the sovereignty parade in the Russian Federation itself.

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] I would like to say that the Russian Federation will not survive yet another CIS. In my view, the desire to have sovereignty for the sake of sovereignty means nothing else but ambitions. One should perhaps try to avoid this now. On the contrary, emphasis should be shifted toward human rights, the existence of an individual in this society and in this single state, and so on. Otherwise, we will turn into a black hole. [end recording]

[Osipov] Marshal Shaposhnikov is presenting Russia with a new choice: either a black hole or achieving comprehensive security, which will transform into collective security.

Wants Wider Powers for Security Council

LD1607211893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By correspondent Peslyakov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, among the three individuals in the presidium then being interviewed in an office] A scientist, a diplomat, and a military officer, participants at today's conference on the security of Russia, expressed theirs thoughts about the nature of new threats in the postconfrontational period. In the evening, the initiator of the discussion explained that a common concept is being drawn up with the role and place of Russia in today's world taken into consideration. The doctrine of security in the economy, in technology, and in the social sphere derives from this since now the task to repulse aggression and to settle a local conflict is not the prerogative of the military alone. Predicting events and undertaking preventive measures to avoid various threats is also of great importance today. This means that the role of scientists is very important here.

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] We will be insisting to the president that one of the major research institutions that specializes in security issues be linked to the Security Council. [end recording]

[Peslyakov] It goes without saying that security is guaranteed by following the law and by punishing all kinds of violators of the law. That is why the departments and President Yeltsin should be convinced of the need to...

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording, in progress] ...entrust the Security Council not only with certain consultative functions but also with coordinating and monitoring functions. [end recording]

General on Condition of Army

MK1707095493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 4

[Mikhail Lashch report in "Russian National Security Concept" column: "Marshal Shaposhnikov Believes That Whatever Threat Exists for Russia Comes Only From Itself"]

[Excerpts] The Security Council's first official event after Yuriy Skokov's departure as its secretary was yesterday's meeting in the Russian Defense Ministry, "Security Concepts: Problems, Ideas, and Implementation." It was addressed by representatives of "power" ministries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other structures related to the problem under discussion. The difficulty of creating a concept, apart from other things, is that work on it was begun by the Security Council apparatus when Yuriy Skokov was still around—it was under his guidance that a concept for Russia's foreign policy was produced and approved by a presidential edict as a component part of the national security concept. And now Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and new employees of the Security Council apparatus will have to base themselves on the results of their predecessors' work. [passage omitted]

After Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's statement the journalists were asked to leave. KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent, however, managed to learn what was discussed behind closed doors. General Andrey Nikolayev, first deputy chief of General Headquarters, spoke about military aspects of the national security concept. General Nikolayev's presentation contained quite a few interesting facts about the condition of the Russian Army. Thus, according to him, the armies from the former Soviet republics now joining the Russian Armed Forces are not complete and for the most part have lost their fighting capacity. At the same time, the general reported, the share of undermanned units has sharply increased. Some 80 percent of stationary troop control posts have stayed outside Russia. Only one tank in four, one combat vehicle in nine, and one armored personnel carrier in 12 correspond to contemporary standards. The remaining combat equipment, according to the general, is only good for the scrap yard. Moreover, this year the Army failed to receive 1.6 trillion rubles from the federal budget. "If by fall the situation does not change, Russia could be left without an army," Andrey Nikolayev said.

The opinion of all speakers boiled down to the fact that in the present situation a national security concept is simply vital. No concrete proposals, however, were made on its elaboration. This possibly resulted from the fact that the number of participants in the conference was lower than planned. The "power" ministers, the head of the foreign policy department, and Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, who had been personally invited to the meeting, failed to show up. Presumably, the reason for the lower-level representatives sent was the precarious position of Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who has taken up his duties but has not as yet been confirmed by the Supreme Soviet. As a result, the marshal was left nothing to do but promise that the ideas expressed at the conference would be taken into account in preparing a national security concept.

Grachev Interviewed on Armed Forces Situation

LD1607183093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0855 GMT on 16 July carries a 25-minute documentary entitled "What Kind of Army?" An unidentified presenter opens the documentary with various short interviews with soldiers on the tough situation the Army is currently going through. An interview with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is interspersed with footage of military training and interviews with other military officials.

Grachev says: "We have succeeded in creating the basis for Russia's future, highly mobile, modern Armed Forces, despite all the difficulties posed by the internal political and economic situation throughout this year and also the difficulties caused by sharp criticism throughout this year from different parties, movements, on the part of the press—from the right, the left, red, blue, green, and so on. But the main thing is that we have been able to survive all this. The Army has acquired a new image and now the notion that it must fulfil only its specific function of defending the country has taken root and is being implemented in the Army."

The presenter commentates on a new package of laws that the military hopes with increase the Army's prestige. Grachev is shown at the latest round of talks in Lithuania, which ended with the agreement that Russia train Lithuanian officers while Lithuania look after Russian servicemen not yet withdrawn from the republic.

The presenter then returns to the interview with Grachev, who says: "A serious, or rather the worst problem, remains the issue of recruitment. We already have positive examples of recruitment into the Armed Forces by contract and at the moment we have called up on contract over 50,000 servicemen to the Armed Forces. The first impression is that these are in fact professionals and are significantly increasing the level of combat readiness. But at the same time, recruiting to the Armed Forces by call-up is not going at all well and the situation here is totally unacceptable to us. In this respect, my opinion, and not only mine but also that of the Ministry of Defense and of the field commanders, is that either everyone or no one should serve in the Army."

During footage of marching soldiers the commentator claims that people in other countries do not have the right to postpone military service as is the case in Russia, where today, he says, nearly everyone is a volunteer. After a glamorous singer devotes a song to the Army, the presenter returns to interviews with soldiers on the call-up. Young would-be soldiers air their positive and negative views of military service, with some much prefering the idea of a professional army.

V. Dobrovolskiy, deputy head of the Moscow Military Commissariat, in a separate interview reiterates Grachev's conviction that either everyone or no one should serve in the Army and calls the law on military service unfair. He says that despite the existence of alternative service in countries like France, Germany, and Italy, says the presenter, they still manage to call up for military service far greater numbers than Russia, which manages 15 percent of its youth, as opposed to France's 60 percent and Italy's 80 percent. Dobrovolskiy says that the budget at the moment can only cover 100,000 military contracts and only in 1995 will the Russian Army have the right to recruit half its servicemen on contract. We should have learned from the mistakes made by the U.S. in the 1970s concerning the Army, which the U.S. corrected by increasing the budget, the presenter says.

During an interview, Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security, makes the point that the biggest single reason why people try to avoid military service is fear of the regime of cruel bullying by older servicemen, rather than the declining prestige of the Army. He gave the example of the recent deaths in the Pacific Fleet. Russian Deputy Defense Minister Valeriy Mironov is interviewed during a conference some time ago on how to make the Army more human. He says patriotism should be the basis of military education.

The presenter returns to the Grachev interview. Grachev says: "The organizational structure based on permanent staff, the foundations of which have been laid, has practically been brought into force in nearly all districts and first and foremost the Northern Caucasus district, which is so important to us in geographic and strategic terms. The image of this district is being changed completely and in the near future—1995—it should become the main district of our Armed Forces."

L. Shustko, commander of the Northern Caucasus Armed Forces, says the district used to only be responsible for training reserves but now has the more important task of monitoring the situation in the area.

Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Air Forces, is interviewed saying he is pleased with the way training has gone in the Air Force.

Grachev Speaks to Army Education Staff

PM1607124193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 93 pp 1, 3

[Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Popov report: "Educators Still Have a Lot To Do in Order To Really Declare Themselves"]

[Text] As we have already reported, a gathering of leadership personnel of organs for work with personnel is being held. It was addressed by Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense. We publish an account of that speech.

After describing the complex sociopolitical situation against whose background qualitatively new Armed Forces are being built, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev dwelt particularly on the responsibility of those who are now answerable for work with personnel and for the improvement of the whole system of education in conditions of the Army's departyization.

It is legitimate, the defense minister said, to raise the question of why, while having such a strong institution for work with personnel, we have not yet achieved any particular successes in educational work. Of course, today we have to train the motherland's defenders in conditions of the general crisis of society, in the absence of the once-strong system of the population's patriotic education. It is clear that we are now reaping the fruits of many years of discrediting the Armed Forces and military service, the fanning of anti-Army hysteria in the mass media, and the loss of prestige by the military profession. But it is all the more important now to have educational structures which are fundamentally new in terms of spirit, functions, and makeup and which are capable of developing in servicemen moral and psychological readiness to defend the fatherland, loyalty to constitutional and military duty, discipline, and pride in belonging to the Russian Armed Forces.

But the problem is that it is possible to endlessly draw up all sorts of orders, directives, and method instructions on education—which, the defense minister said, is mainly done at present by the Main Directorate for Work with Personnel—while at the same time preserving the former administrative edict methods of work with people, which also happens.

The defense minister cited a typical example of the inertia of old approaches to resolving qualitatively new tasks. Today, as is known, personnel information and leisure rooms have been fitted out in place of the Lenin rooms in units. But what lies behind this unwieldy name, which scares off a normal person? So-called mass methods of education again: Soldiers have been marched into this very information room and marched out again. With what effect?

Army Gen. Grachev went on to dwell in detail on the priority problems in the life of the troops which demand particularly close attention and vigorous action by structures for work with personnel and where glitches occur most frequently or formalism reigns. In particular, educational work with officer cadres is not noted for its novelty, and poor use is made of the great potential of officers' assemblies and other public organizations peculiar to the Army and Navy. The new services which have been set up—the social-psychological service, the social-legal service, the information and public relations service, the cultural and leisure service—have practically no effect on the morale and psychological state of servicemen, military discipline, or combat training. Great concern is aroused by the number of accidents and crimes, which has hardly diminished. All this creates general tension in the atmosphere of service and in the life of military collectives and impedes the qualitative fulfillment of the tasks entrusted to them.

The defense minister especially stipulated that he is far from wishing to hold educational structures alone wholly responsible for the state of discipline and of law and order in the Armed Forces. But the personal blame of education officers also has to be acknowledged here.

On what must the efforts of the whole institution of Army and Navy educational work be concentrated today, what are the tasks, and how are they to be resolved?

In speaking of this, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev emphasized that the entire educational potential must be mobilized to strengthen the moral and psychological stability of personnel and to mobilize servicemen to fulfill alert duty and combat service plans. At the same it is necessary to employ not slogans and appeals but personal participation and example.

Maximum use should be made of the preparations for the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War and for the 300th anniversary of the Russian Fleet to explain to personnel Russia's national interests and the need to defend its security and territorial integrity and to revive the heroic traditions of the Russian Army and Navy and servicemen's patriotic education. Work on reinforcing the legal culture of military people must continue constantly. In parallel, and in conjunction with commanders, staffs, local organs of power, and the public, it is necessary to really strive to implement military laws and ensure the rights of servicemen and members of their families. Much still has to be done to rally multinational military collectives and strengthen in them friendship, troop comradeship, and unity of the officer corps.

In connection with the infiltration of nationalist, pacifist, and religious-extremist ideologies into the army milieu, the continuing pressure on the Armed Forces from various political forces, and the anti-Army sallies by certain mass media, it is necessary to activate the work of educational structures in preventing negative influences on the awareness of servicemen. All available opportunities should be utilized to enhance the Armed Forces' prestige in society, to publicize military service, and to carry out military-patriotic education of the population, particularly of young people.

In the sphere of strengthening discipline and law and order, the defense minister emphasized, the main effort must be channeled into preventing people's deaths and injuries, revealing and resolving tension in collectives in good time, and eliminating the social and domestic preconditions of accidents and crimes.

On the whole, the task boils down to radically changing the style, methods, and forms of activity of educational structures and ensuring their skillful and timely influence on the general morale and psychological state of all categories of servicemen. Thus declaring themselves as genuine educators who are trusted by the ordinary soldier, seaman, and officer and to whom the latter will go, first of all, for advice and assistance and will get it in their hour of greatest need.

In accordance with the plan of the gathering, reports were heard from assistants to the commanders in chief of the branches of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and to commanders (chiefs) of categories of troops for work with personnel. Then its participants worked in groups, in which, in addition to exchanging experience and tackling urgent questions of educational work, a practical definition was made of these structures' forms and methods of activity.

It was also defined that better ratings have been achieved recently in the work of the educational structures headed by Lieutenant General A. Gorbachev (Moscow Military District); Major General Yu. Ivanushkin (Western Group of Forces); Major General A. Kozlov (North Caucasus Military District); Major General P. Sokolov (GUMO) [expansion unknown]; Major General A. Smirnov (Far East Military District); Rear Admiral V. Stepanov (Baltic Fleet); and Colonels A. Selyunin, A. Baranov, A. Poletayev, Yu. Smirnov, and A. Fominikh.

The businesslike and exacting atmosphere of the gathering and the critical nature of the assessments that were made give grounds for hoping that the institution of educational work as a whole will be able to draw the right conclusions and make serious corrections to its work.

News Conference Details Army Draft Problems

LD1607152393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The spring draft into the Army took place in an organized manner and without incident. This was reported at a meeting with journalists in the Russian Defense Ministry. Although 170,000 young men were sent off to the Armed Forces, the military notes that this satisfies only 13 percent of the military districts' requirements. The shortfall is due to the fact that of the 1.8 million subject to the draft, only 300,000 can in reality be called up, those who do not have the right to deferment. Because of the shortfall in the draft, many units remain on combat duty and on watch for several days at a time, despite the reduction in their numbers.

Greater concern is being caused by the fall draft, when two drafts are being demobilized at the same time, and this affects some 320,000 men. The Defense Ministry has put forward a proposal for recruiting a further 50,000 volunteers under contract. However, the 12 billion rubles required for this has not yet been provided. Only contract personnel are used to man forces in conflict zones. The Defense Ministry considers it necessary to abolish deferment for students in secondary specialized educational establishments, and it is calling for the law on alternative service to be adopted no earlier than 1994-95.

Armed Forces Facing Shortage

PM1907103393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Burbyga report: "Spring Draft Campaign Passed Off Successfully But Its Results Were Lamentable"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Vladimir Bondartsev, first deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff Main Organization and Mobilization Directorate, reported during a briefing held 15 July in Moscow that as of 1 January 1993 there were 1,814,000 draft-age youths on military registration records.

But only 300,000 of them can be drafted this year. Some 170,000 of them were drafted this spring. Thus only 13 percent of units' requirements for new draftees has been met. Most of those who were not drafted, the general reported, are taking advantage of deferment.

In the military's opinion, the situation will not be saved by alternative service either. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry's position on the question of adopting the Law on Alternative Service boils down to the need to defer the entry into force of the Russian Federation Law "On Alternative Service" until 1 January 1997, should it be adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. This enforced but quite necessary approach to the problem is dictated by the critical situation regarding replacement personnel for the Armed Forces and other forces. According to preliminary data, the number of citizens who can be drafted for military service this fall is in the order of 130,000 people, and 150-160,000 at best. If it is borne in mind that during this period over 320,000 people at once will be discharged from the Armed Forces alone, that is, two drafts—those who were drafted for two years in fall 1991 and for 1.5 years in spring 1992—there will be practically nobody to replace them. The 109,000 who concluded contracts this year will have no significant effect on Army and Navy manning levels.

Who exactly is responsible for organizing and conducting the draft campaign?

A press release circulated during the Defense Ministry Press Service briefing reported that "the head of a rayon or city administration is responsible for organizing the draft of citizens for military service." The deputy head of either kind of administrative formation is appointed chairman of the draft commission.

The allocation of draft resources to staff federal highway construction administration units and military construction detachments working on the construction of national economic facilities is not envisaged this year.

In accordance with existing agreements the Russian Federation Armed Forces military units located in Baykonur will be staffed both with citizens of the Russian Federation (from the draft—on a voluntary basis—and on contract) and partly with citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan. At present this procedure does not contravene both states' existing legislation.

The military construction detachments (units) stationed in the Baykonur area come under the Kazakh Defense Ministry and are manned solely with this republic's citizens.

Yeltsin Edict on Drafting Reserve Officers

PM1907105193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Edict of the Russian Federation president "On the Draft of Reserve Officers to Military Service in 1993-1994," signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated 13 July 1993]

[Text] In accordance with Article 19 of the Russian Federation Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service," I **decree**:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense:

Will draft to military service each year in 1993-1994 up to 18,000 citizens who have not performed military service, and who have graduated from state educational institutions of higher professional education and belong to the reserve of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and hold an officer's rank, including up to 8,000 men who have just graduated from the aforementioned institutions as military occupational specialists, in the numbers specified in the appendix;

will allocate each year in 1993-1994 from among the aforementioned citizens:

up to 700 men to the Russian Federation Ministry of Security troops, up to 300 men to the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs Internal Troops, and up to 2,000 men to the Russian Federation Railroad Troops.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of Security, the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Russian Federation Railroad Troops will ensure that the citizens drafted to military service as provided in Point 1 of the present edict will be appointed to posts that correspond to their military-occupational specialization.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 13 July 1993

Yeltsin Calls For Space Research, Production Center

LD1807182793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] In line with President Yeltsin's decision, Russia is to have a government-controlled space research and production center which will help the space industry in its industrial performance and on the international market. A major machine-building plant and a space and missile design center are to form the nucleus of the new set up. The new set up will be developing and producing space vehicles, rocket carriers, orbital stations, and other space technology.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Votes To Increase Defense Allocations

LD1707122993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1215 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Filipov]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The Russian parliament has rejected the government's suggestion to limit budgetary expenditures on the defence industry to the amount of 6.336.613 million roubles and voted to increase these expenditures to 8.011.162 million roubles.

Arguing against the government's proposal, Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Plans, Taxes, Budgets and Prices Aleksandr Polischuk said that unless allocations to the defence industry are increased, the state will be able to finance neither the law on the status of servicemen of the Russian Federation, nor many other legislative acts concerning the Russian Army.

Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the Russian Parliament, Venyamin Sokolov, pointed out that unless defence expenditures are considerably increased, "the defence industry, which does not have enough orders, will be brought to a standstill, and the defence in Russia will disappear altogether."

Khasbulatov Refutes Privatization Ban Report

LD1707104493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian parliament, has refuted a report that the Supreme Soviet is allegedly preparing a decision on abolishing or placing a ban on the privatization of state property through vouchers.

Constitutional Conference Draft Given 'Auxiliary' Role

PM1607152993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya report: "Parliament To 'Drag Out' Discussion of New Draft Constitution"]

[Text] At its 16 July plenary session the Supreme Soviet reacted with laudable swiftness to the draft constitution adopted at the Constitutional Conference and submitted by the president the previous day.

But both O. Rumyantsev's report "On the Procedure for Adopting the Russian Federation Draft Constitution" and the subsequent discussion of it provide no grounds for hoping that Russia will soon obtain a new fundamental law. This conclusion follows from O. Rumyantsev's two claims—that the lack of a new constitution is no impediment to reform and that the draft submitted by the president was drawn up by just one political force.

Hence the proposals to refer the draft to the Constitutional Commission, which is finalizing its own draft in expectation of complaints about the "president's" draft from Federation components. The scenario after this envisages the creation of a working group of representatives from the Constitutional Conference and the Constitutional Commission, which will be tasked with taking account of the amendments in elaborating an agreed text in September and submitting it for examination by Congress 17 November.

The draft Supreme Soviet decree already used as the basis for the Constitutional Commission's work also proposed continuing work on the draft constitution, whose main provisions were approved by the Sixth Congress, but taking account of the "president's" draft. In other words, the Constitutional Conference's draft is being given an auxiliary role from the outset.

The debate also revealed other viewpoints. Thus, S. Krasavchenko noted that the system of federal state power proposed in the president's draft would ensure its effective functioning in the interests of all of society and of Russia as a whole.

V. Isakov called the "president's draft" a major political initiative. He believes that parliament should not hastily "patch together its own draft" so as to "push it forward" at the Congress ahead of the president's draft, but should make use of the situation to calmly "determine our position in the constitutional process." In his opinion, the Supreme Soviet should first propose a mechanism for adopting the Constitution and a legal mechanism for implementing the Federation Treaty, enshrining both in law.

Finally, N. Ryabov proposed setting up a conciliation conference [soglasitelnoye soveshchaniye] representing the three parties—the president, parliament, and Federation components—to submit a single, unified draft constitution to the Congress or a referendum.

Describing the "parliamentary" and "presidential" drafts, R. Khasbulatov stated that we have to choose between a bad and a very bad draft. And he unexpectedly proposed "not making any decision today." But O. Rumyantsev, who spoke after him, called the speaker's statement "one person's subjective opinion of the drafts," which was confirmed by the vote on the draft decree—190 deputies approved the proposed plan for finalizing the draft constitutions.

Parliament Passes Constitution Adoption Law

MK1707094493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Vera Kuznetsova report under "Constitution" rubric: "Parliament Upstages President. Law 'On Procedures for Adopting a New Constitution' Approved in Its First Reading"]

[Text] Yesterday the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet adopted (so far in the first reading) what is actually a preventive law "On Procedures for Adopting a New Constitution," which enables the lawmakers to avoid a radical constitutional reform—radical precisely in the sense of possibilities for adopting a new constitution. These possibilities after the latest parliamentary decision have been minimized. Up to now four possible options have been discussed as part of the question of who will be adopting the new fundamental law: the congress, a referendum, a new parliament, or a Constitutional Assembly. The Supreme Soviet's law for its part proposes only the first two options, decisively rejecting the last one. As for the possibility of a new constitution being adopted, it implicitly remains—basically, as merely a political bargaining chip.

Without particularly aspiring to create its own final product—the text of the constitution itself—parliament actually upstaged the president, who was planning in early August to consider the mechanism for adopting a new constitution at the Constitutional Conference. The latter will now be presented with a fait accompli, as established by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet law. And if the Constitutional Conference participants still debate the mechanisms for adoption, that would be within an even tougher framework than before, since the Supreme Soviet law introduces an additional norm into the procedure for counting votes (if the constitution is adopted at a referendum).

Under it, the fundamental law will be deemed adopted if it is voted for not only by 50 percent of the electorate but also by two-thirds of the Federation components. When Deputy Viktor Sheynis at the session described this provision as superfluous, another deputy, Vladimir Isakov, who presented the law "On Procedures for Adopting a New Constitution," contended that the norm had been borrowed from the presidential act—which only partially corresponds to reality since the question of the two-thirds quota in connection with the Federation components was raised at the Constitutional Conference on a slightly different count. Namely, if, after the present discussion and the introduction of amendments into the draft constitution by all Russian Federation regions, two-thirds of them initial the text, then the most radical ways should be sought for ensuring its adoption.

By contrast, yesterday parliament proposed to the Constitution Commission that it continue work on the draft constitution, but this time officially taking into account yet another draft approved on 12 July by the Constitutional Conference. It was precisely in these terms—"yet another" or "alongside with others"—that the proposal was made by opposition leaders Isakov and Baburin and Soviet of Nationalities Chairman Abdulatipov.... "There is nothing unusual in this procedure," Sergey Baburin said. "The president has the power of legislative initiative, and we consider it. This is neither a move forward nor a move backward—this is just the rule of procedure."

The parliament speaker strongly objected even to this purely formal decision by parliament. He insisted that the Supreme Soviet confine itself to a still more laconic phrase, "take note of." The speaker, however, was not supported in this even by the most intransigent deputies.

Vladimir Ispravnikov, observing that the regions are no less clever than the Supreme Soviet, proposed that they be given a possibility to assume a share of responsibility. He also defined priorities of a constitutional reform for the Supreme Soviet which in no way differ from the priorities of the constitutional conference: a procedure for adopting a new constitution and a mechanism for the implementation of the Federation Treaty. In addition, he, as well as Oleg Rumyantsev and Nikolay Ryabov, proposed to consider the existing drafts of the new fundamental law in a joint working group of the constitutional commission and the constitutional conference. And only Ruslan Khasbulatov never tired of repeating during the debate: "We cannot yield.... We have two drafts—a bad one and a very bad one."

Sixth Session To Continue for 'Another Week'

LD1607140693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0933 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—The Supreme Soviet will continue the work of the sixth session for another week. This decision was made today by the parliament members.

The first vote on this matter was taken several days ago in the absence of the speaker and was negative. However, today Ruslan Khasbulatov proposed to return to this issue and recalled that Parliament still has much unfinished business. The republican budget for this year needs to be adopted. The discussion of a draft law, "on verifying indices of the Russian Federation budget for 1993" in its second reading has been included in today's agenda.

Statement Issued on End To Attacks in Tajikistan

PM1607190393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

["Statement in Connection With the Events on the Tajik-Afghan Border"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet learned with great alarm and profound indignation of the new provocative actions by armed extremists on the Tajik-Afghan border. On the night of 12-13 July 1993 an armed attack was launched against the 117th Border Guard Detachment's 12th border post. The gunmen's actions were backed by artillery fire from Afghan territory. This treacherous attack by military terrorist groups resulted in considerable casualties among Russian and Tajik servicemen and civilians.

Reaffirming the Russian Federation's consistent policy of good-neighborly relations with the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet at the same time draws the Afghan leadership's attention to the impermissibility of aggressive attacks from its territory, which could result in a serious deterioration of the military-political situation in the region. The Russian side is counting on all possible measures being urgently taken to end and prevent any future military provocations on the southern borders of the CIS states. At the same time, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet considers it expedient to resume interstate talks with the Afghan leadership aimed at putting a stop to the aforesaid actions.

Russian parliamentarians express the hope that the parliaments of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, in the spirit of the CIS Treaty on Collective Security, will take corresponding steps aimed at speedily and unswervingly fulfilling the 22 January 1993 Minsk accords relating to the peacekeeping operation in Tajikistan and the defense of the Tajik-Afghan border. In this connection the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet draws attention to the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, signed 25 May 1993 in the city of Moscow.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet instructs the Russian Federation Government to take the necessary measures to protect the lives and security of our fellow countrymen using means appropriate to the circumstances.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet extends its profound condolences to the families and relatives of the deceased Russian and Tajik citizens.

[Signed] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] 15 July 1993; Moscow, House of the Soviets of Russia

No. 5439-1

Khasbulatov Fears 'Unexpected' During Recess

MK1707093493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[G.R. report under "Speaker" rubric: "Ruslan Khasbulatov Is Calm, But Still Fears Something Unexpected Could Happen During Parliamentary Recess"]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov met with leaders of Russian mass media organizations in the Moscow House of Journalists on 15 July.

Responding to numerous questions, the Supreme Soviet chairman said in particular that he sees no physical possibility of holding a Congress of People's Deputies session in July or August. Even supposing the congress is summoned after all, its initiators must realize, of course, that before it begins to discuss the presidential draft constitution, the deputies will raise the question of the government's performance report. Actually, Ruslan Khasbulatov noted, the congress has been scheduled to open on 17 November to discuss the constitution problem.

On the prospect of holding parliamentary elections this fall, the Supreme Soviet chairman said that he does not preclude the following scenario for the development of events envisioned by supporters of this idea: Elections will not take place (for example, owing to voter nonparticipation), which is the basic premise, as a result of which the old parliament will be dissolved and a new one never elected. Then an undemocratic regime would automatically be introduced in the country.

Ruslan Khasbulatov said, however, that he was more worried not by this, but by the fact that unexpected things could happen at the moment the Supreme Soviet goes away for summer vacations.

The speaker also pointed out that in his opinion the Chernomyrdin government is working under such favorable conditions that Gaydar could not even have dreamed of—the present government is virtually not overseen by the Supreme Soviet. Moreover, Khasbulatov suggested that there is very much the government simply does not know—for instance, the real volume of hard currency revenues and expenditures in the state budget.

Khasbulatov also said that he does not know anything about the Supreme Soviet's intentions to suspend the ongoing privatization and abolish the privatization voucher system.

Panel Head Criticizes Government Handling of Budget Law

PM1607143793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Anatoliy Saunin, acting chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Control and Budget Committee, by Valeriy Zenkov under the "Budget" rubric; place and date not given: "Where Has the Money Gone?"]

[Text] "The slump in production and continuing rise in prices now demand that the government immediately adopt effective measures to overcome them and protect the population from poverty and death. Prices in 1992 rose 30 times over, according to the figures of the State Committee for Statistics. According to the preliminary estimates of the Control and Budget Committee, prices will rise a further 10-12 times over in 1993. This means that compared with the 1991 level prices will have risen by a factor of 300 to 360. At the same time, the population's money incomes will have risen by less than a factor of 100, according to the calculations of the Russian Federation Economy Ministry. With such a ratio of prices to incomes the bulk of the population is doomed to poverty."

These words are from the Russian Supreme Soviet Control and Budget Committee's conclusions on the draft law "Clarification of the Indicators of the Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993" presented by the government. The conclusions are signed by Anatoliy Saunin, acting chairman of the Control and Budget Committee.

[Zenkov] Anatoliy Nikolayevich, the preliminary document cited a different figure for the rise in prices—just sixfold. What are we being prepared for here?

[Saunin] Well, this is a dismal story but I shall begin with a joke. A man comes home one pay day. His wife asks him angrily: "Where's the money?" But he looks at his wife in amazement, shrugs, stares blankly, and merely says: "What money?" The whole point of this joke, if you recall, is that you do not just have to tell it but show it, too. When the wife asks her question her face is stern but her husband's is ingenuous.

Something similar happened at the Supreme Soviet session last week when the revised budget indicators were being examined. I should point out that the notion "revised" here means that revenue and expenditure have been indexed to the rate of inflation. The government recalculated the budget indicators and came to the conclusion that inflation will be 500 percent by the end of the year.

When the Law on the Budget was being adopted a decision was made to clarify its indicators and an approximate deadline of April-May was set. However, the government failed to present any revisions by that date. They did not appear until July. But in the past six months the rise in prices was almost the same as the budget forecast for the year!

[Zenkov] In that case all the financial indicators forming the revenue section of the budget will rise!

[Saunin] That is right! Budget revenue will double. The profits tax, value-added tax, and contributions to the financial support fund for the agro-industrial complex will rise accordingly.

[Zenkov] Meanwhile the government insists on adopting the budget in the form in which it was presented!

[Saunin] It does.

[Zenkov] But if it is known in advance that the indicators are going to be different what is the point in adopting a budget in this form?

[Saunin] None! If the budget is approved without taking the real situation into account it will be an act of deliberate deception. That is why we believe it necessary to comnpletely review all the revenues received by commodity producers and intermediary structures, regardless of forms of ownership, from raising prices for material and technical resources. Finally it is necessary to ascertain what has happened to all the additional revenue received by the national economy from raising prices for goods and services if it has not been included in the budget presented for examination by the Supreme Soviet.

[Zenkov] Will it be easy to monitor the implementation of the revised budget?

[Saunin] We are having great difficulty doing that today. And after the revisions have been made it will be virtually impossible. Tell me, how can this be done when the headings of expenditure were in one place in the law on the budget but in a different place in the draft law.

But as for the proposed draft law as a whole, it must be said that it represents not a set of revised budget indicators but essentially a new budget. The government is proposing to substantially alter the revenue section, set new types of tax, and increase excise duties. The government has also introduced a number of new budget headings. So our opinion is that the draft law should be sent back for reworking. We have to get away from joke situations.

Regional Affairs

Rutskoy Attends Blagoveshchensk Celebrations

LD1807092293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow July 18 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, visiting Amur Region, on Sunday [18 July] took part in festivities marking the 135th jubilee of the city of Blagoveshchensk.

Together with representatives of the authorities of Amur Region and the city, and people's deputies, Rutskoy attended a ceremony to unveil a monument to Count Nikolay Muravev-Amurskiy—a Russian statesman of the 19th century and former governor-general of Eastern Siberia. The monument has been erected on the Amur river bank, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by telephone from Blagoveshchensk.

Also on Sunday, Rutskoy had a meeting with directors of industrial enterprises and representatives of the general public of Blagoveshchensk.

On July 19 the vice-president is planning to leave by air for Khabarovsk.

Arrives in Khabarovsk

LD1907042293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0320 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk, 19 Jul—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is touring the Russian Far East, today arrived in Khabarovsk from Blagoveshchensk. Speaking briefly to journalists at the airport, he mentioned his favorable impression of the people of the Far East: they are calm, level-headed, and self-assured, even though everyone is concerned at when the country's instability will end.

During the afternoon, the vice president plans to confer with the leaders of the administration and Soviets of People's Deputies of Khabarovsk Kray, after which a visit is scheduled to an agricultural enterprise in the town suburbs. According to his itinerary in the Amur region, Aleksandr Rutskoy will travel to Komsomolsk-on-Amur, where he will see how conversion is proceeding at defense-sector enterprises.

Cited on Ending Economic 'Crisis'

LD1907095493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0935 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk July 19 TASS— Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy believes the country has reached the bottomline in its economic situation and that decades will be necessary to restore production.

"According to European standards we have been for a long time in a hypercrisis and 10-12 years will be necessary to restore the 1990 level of production", Rutskoy told local leaders in Khabarovsk in the Russian Far East on Monday [19 July].

The vice-president said he is working on a "popular programme of overcoming the crisis" which focuses on ensuring equal rights to all the subjects of the federation.

"If we want to preserve the state it is necessary to ensure equal economic and political rights to all subjects of the federation", he said.

Rutskoy added that he had arrived in Khabarovsk "to study public opinion in the Far East".

Yeltsin Representative Hits Rutskoy's Abusive Words

PM1607101793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Letter to Russian Federation Vice President A. Rutskoy from A.N. Manokhin, the president's representative in Novosibirsk Oblast]

[Text] Esteemed Aleksandr Vladimirovich!

I am writing to you not only as a Russian people's deputy and the Russian Federation president's representative in Novosibirsk Oblast, but as a Novosibirsker who voted at the April referendum for the president and his policy, which you subjected to gratuitous and cynical abuse when you were a guest in our city, attending the centenary celebrations.

When you spoke at the Novosibirsk Social-Political Center on 5 July and talked about the 64 percent of Novosibirskers who voted for the president, you said that "it was mainly speculators, scoundrels, and criminals who voted, and soon gays, pederasts (because they are now legal), and other vermin will also be voting."

At the referendum I voted for confidence in the Russian president—not out of duty, but consciously to support the president's course of reforms. Perhaps I, like thousands of other Novosibirskers and the majority of my electorate living in the Novosibirsk "science city," like millions of Russians who voted for the president, am wrong. Perhaps you and the people who, like you, voted against the president and the president's reform course, are right. I respect your choice and the choice of your fellows and I would not consider using epithets like "red-brown," "throwbacks," and "vermin" with reference to those who think differently from me and the majority of Russians.

Incidentally, you were gravely mistaken when you talked about homosexuals: They have always had civil rights, including the right to vote. The Supreme Soviet (certainly not the president, as may appear from what you say) did not declare them "legal," but merely decriminalized voluntary homosexual relations. So if one is to use your sexual-political logic, homosexuals would vote for you, since after all you, not the president, have the support of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

I do not think that it is normal for politicians in general, let alone for a politician aspiring to the presidency, to pin labels on and make gratuitous insults against opponents. Abuse is not a means of political struggle, let alone filthy abuse.

[Signed] Russian People's Deputy A.N. Manokhin

Shokhin Completes Visit to Western Siberia

LD1707105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Khots]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk (Western Siberia), July 17 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is completing his four-day visit to the Krasnoyarsk region in Western Siberia today.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS he said that "if we turn the Boguchansk electric power station and other facilities in the lower regions of the Angara river into 'monuments' to our mismanagement, it will be difficult for us to prove to our potential Russian or foreign investors that we are capable of seeing the matter through."

Shokhin said he believes it is important that the "Olympiada" gold deposit and Gorevsk mining and metallurgical works be put into operation as soon as possible.

"Another painful problem is Yuzhnaya Evenkiya, where prospecting for oil is under way," Shokhin said. He pointed out that this region was rich in oil deposits and had good prospects, expected to be able to replace the potential of Western Siberia in due course. He pointed out that today, plans should be made for the construction of minor oil and gas processing plants here using Russian know-how. The construction of these enterprises can be entrusted to Siberian defence enterprises, Shokhin said.

Shokhin pointed out that the Boguchansk electric power station, apart from being a basis for economic development of this region, can be used to supply Russian electric energy to China, which had been long asking for it. Shokhin noted that the only condition was that payments for energy supply be made in hard currency.

"We fully support Siberia's demands that it is high time to stop selling our raw materials. It is paradoxical that the more resources are taken out of the country, the less revenues we get. For instance, Japanese sea ports are full of Siberian timber, including a high quality Siberian pine-trees. As a result, the price for timber has considerably dropped in recent years," Shokhin said.

"We hope that enterprises in the Lower Angara will take leading positions not only among exporters of raw materials, but ready-made products capable of competing at the world market," Shokhin said.

Further Shokhin Comment

LD1707135193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The four-day tour of Krasnoyarsk Kray by a government delegation headed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin ended today.

The people of Krasnoyarsk Kray are hardly able to implement by themselves the programs for the development of the Lower Angara zone which are on a republican scale. One of the leaders of the Russian Government, Aleksandr Shokhin, who was visiting here for the first time, saw for himself the absurdity of the fact that the mining of the unique and very rich deposits of gold, lead, manganese, antimony, and oil has been reduced or has been closed down altogether. No funds are being allocated for the completion of the Gorevsk lead and zinc combine, whose output is needed not so much by the kray as by Russia as a whole. Nevertheless, the people of the kray are not sitting with arms folded, expecting favors from the government, as the deputy prime minister himself noted.

[Begin Shokhin recording] People are not simply asking, say, to be given budget resources or preferential credits. It turns out that they are all vigorously working for themselves. All have already found potential Western partners, have talked through various options of attracting investments, including foreign ones. [end recording]

[Correspondent] At the final news conference in Krasnoyarsk today, it was stated that the development of the Lower Angara region will become a priority program of all-Russian significance.

Khasbulatov Addresses District Councils Conference

LD1907095893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Yermakova and Eduard Vasilyev]

[Text] Vladimir July 19 TASS—"The main thing now is not a constitution but the economy," claimed Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, speaking on Monday [19 July] at a conference with representatives of district councils from the central and Volga-Vyatka areas. The conference deals with methods of organising operation of district councils to carry out economic reforms.

"All of us—the Russian Parliament and local councils—should think on how to tackle key economic problems," he added.

Noting that the Russian Parliament now continues work to approve the finalised budget, the speaker blamed the government for a delay with the budget's adoption.

He stressed that the legislature cannot approve a drastic cut of appropriations for social programmes, science, public health and investments.

Khasbulatov called parliament a guarantee of democracy, expressing a sharp disagreement with the thesis "democracy and councils are incompatible". According to the speaker, there is now a chance to realise a real democracy.

"No matter what the destiny of parliament and my own will be, we must adopt a clear-cut constitutional and pro-popular position", he continued.

At the same time he criticised lawmakers, noting that the legislature is heterogeneous, and some deputy speakers and committee heads "fail to show an example of law-abiding people and civil responsibility".

"It is difficult to oppose a desire to overthrow the legislative power" under these conditions, the speaker noted. "An attempt to destroy the legislative power was made at the Constitutional Conference when it was planned to turn it into a constituent assembly and to adopt a constitution."

According to the speaker, "the present senseless confrontation does not serve the interests of ordinary people".

Khasbulatov dealt at length with the economic crisis, noting that industrial production, the agricultural complex and technology are being destroyed. He expressed opinion that "the country has lost its prestige, and open interference in our domestic policy is under way".

The Finance Ministry again artificially provoked crisis in business solvency. Referring to forecasts by specialists, Khasbulatov said that the dollar's exchange rate can jump to 2,000 roubles in September. Moreover, the price hike for energy carriers will provoke price rises for other goods.

Pointing to the great importance of the local self-government system, the speaker called on councils "not to take an indifferent position at this difficult time but to actively participate in the process of changes".

Official on Future of Kaliningrad Oblast

LD1607175593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent D. Pugacheva; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Until quite recently one of the Soviet Union's largest naval bases Kaliningrad Oblast has become Russia's second major transport center in the Baltic. Yuriy Matochkin, the region's head of administration, today told journalists about the oblast's cooperation with its nearest neighbors and Western countries. Russia's amber coast has acquired the status of a free economic zone and is entitled to duty-free trade and taxation privileges. The opportunities for direct emergence to the foreign market has put this Russian region into a specially independent position.

As Yuriy Matochkin said, Kaliningrad Oblast could set up its own autonomous Baltic republic, and such an idea has occurred to the region's inhabitants. However, after acquiring special economic status it would be senseless, because Kaliningrad Oblast now possesses more rights than any republic. The region's administration has now proposed to the Russian Supreme Soviet that a law be adopted on the status of Kaliningrad Oblast that defines the additional rights of the region in respect of international trade and economic links.

To Introduce Immigration Quota

LD1707154993 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Kaliningrad Oblast does not intend to proclaim itself a republic. Yuriy Matochkin, the leader of the oblast administration, stated this at a news conference. He also said he is against mass migration by the Germans to Kaliningrad Oblast and against the establishment of a so-called Baltic German republic.

According to Matochkin, it is proposed to introduce an immigration quota in Kaliningrad Oblast in order to guarantee normal living conditions to the arriving persons. In 1992 16,000 people arrived to live in Kaliningrad Oblast, and 13,000 left the oblast. Matochkin said that the oblast cannot accept more than 5,000 - 6,000 people each year.

Yuriy Matochkin also announced that Kaliningrad will continue to be the main base of the Russian Baltic Fleet.

Situation in Ossetia, Ingushetia 'Remains Complex'

LD1807114493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 18 TASS—The situation in the limited zone of state-of-emergency regulations on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia remains complex. Firing on populated areas and on police checkpoints with the aim of seizing weapons are continued in North Ossetian areas adjacent to Ingushetia, according to Aleksandr Khodov, secretary of the North Ossetian security council.

The populated areas of Chermen and Kartsa were periodically fired upon from the direction of Ingushetia last night. Mobile units of Russian Interior Ministry returned the fire. There was no loss of life.

Khodov confirmed the information that a large armed bandit group, consisting of local residents, was routed by South Ossetian Interior- and Security-Ministry forces on the outskirts of Tskhinvali on July 17.

Viktor Polyanichko, chief of the provisional administration of the limited area of state-of-emergency regulations, gave a press conference in Vladikavkaz for journalists from Russian newspapers and news agencies.

He said Russian peacemaking forces, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, will not allow an interethnic confrontation to flare up in the region. The way to peace and accord between North Ossetia and Ingushetia lies through negotiations and mutual compromises, not strongarm methods, Polyanichko said.

In the opinion of the provisional administration chief, the main problems which must be tackled are those of refugees and forced migrants, the ensurance of the safety of civilians, the confiscation of firearms from local residents, and fight against bandit groups operating in mountainous areas.

Tyumen Oblast Chief Refuses To Sign Draft Constitution

LD1707141493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Leonid Raketskiy, chief of administration of Tyumen Oblast, is one of the few chiefs of oblast administrations who have refused to sign the draft of the new Russian constitution, approved by the Constitutional Conference in Moscow. He is convinced that it will lead to the disintegration of Tyumen Oblast because the document states that it is composed of three equal subjects of the Russian Federation, i.e., besides Tyumen Oblast itself, Yamal-Nenets and Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrugs.

He said this at a meeting with representatives of parties, public movements, religious groups, and creative intelligentsia.

Chelyabinsk To Hold Referendum on Republic Issue

LD1607174793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today it emerged that a poll of the population is to ascertain the attitude of the inhabitants of Chelyabinsk Oblast to the decision adopted recently by the inner council [malyy sovet] on transforming the oblast into the South Urals Republic. The poll will be held during the final 10 days of August. Like every poll it will naturally require a great deal of money for which Chelyabinsk's inhabitants could probably find another use.

Buryatia Urges 'No Haste' in Adopting New Constitution

LD1607162993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0831 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude, 16 Jul—"There should be no haste in the constitutional process, otherwise there is the danger that the crisis of power will turn into a crisis of the statehood of Russia." This statement was made today by Leonid Potapov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Buryatia, in an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent on his return to Ulan-Ude from the Constitutional Conference.

The head of the parliament of Buryatia, just like a number of other local leaders, considers that a great deal of work has been done at the conference, however, he did not vote to approve the proposed draft. Explaining his position he said that he does not share the point of view of those who assert that the new constitution is ready. "This can be said only after the document has been subjected to expert consideration in the localities and has been initialed by the subjects of the Russian Federation which have a considerable number of criticisms about the document," he said.

The Supreme Soviet chairman said that first "it is necessary to eliminate the contradictions between individual articles of the future constitution and the Federal

Treaty, to improve the wording on the status of the republics within the Russian Federation, and the territorial formations."

Mordovia Dismantles Presidency Ahead of Court Hearings

LD1607174193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Papeta]

[Text] Saransk July 16 TASS—Although the Constitutional Court of Mordovia, a republic within the Russian Federation, has yet to decide whether the move to abolish the republic's presidency is legitimate, the dismantling of all links and services of this institute is going ahead.

The last to go is the president's information and analytical centre which the new government has found redundant despite much basic research into Mordovia's domestic problems done by it. The personnel were declared redundant today after three months following the notification about the termination of the centre's activity.

Nizhniy Novgorod Officials on Arms Fair

OW1607145893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1855 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Studio interview with Dmitriy Ivanovich Bednyakov, mayor of Nizhniy Novgorod, and Vladimir Vladimirovich Bessarab, general director of the Nizhniy Novgorod Arms Fair, by Petr Orlov and Irina Zaytseva; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Orlov] You may remember that a little less than a week ago we talked about the prospects of the coming visit of Chernomyrdin to the United States. Well, the visit was canceled or most likely it was postponed due to a lack of agreement on some technical issues, as the official statement said. However, what lies behind this is quite obvious, and it is the fact that the United States and Russia are not ready to reach a serious agreement in the sphere of the export of Russian technologies, particularly the contract with India on the delivery of cryogenic technologies....

[Zaytseva, interrupting] Which apparently alarms them.

[Orlov] Yes, of course, it alarms them. They wanted to get this contract themselves. They were much less agitated before we got this contract. Now they naturally feel let down.

[Zaytseva] Yes, obviously.

[Orlov] There was an interesting commentary on the postponement of this visit, that in the absence of an agreement on cooperation in space, which could provide Russia nearly a billion dollars from the Freedom and Mir space station projects alone, Russia could release enormous quantities of arms into the market, including mass destruction weapons.

Now today we would like to talk about this prospect, the prospect of arms sales, taking into consideration Russia's need for money, with the guests in our studio. They are the people who initiated this course of action in Russia, legally and officially as it was before, through a demonstration of weapons at the Nizhniy Novgorod Fair.

In our studio are Dmitriy Ivanovich Bednyakov, mayor of Nizhniy Novgorod, and Vladimir Vladimirovich Bessarab, general director of the fair. To what extent is it possible that due to its financial problems Russia will have no other choice but to flood the market with an enormous quantity of arms? What do you think, how do you assess this situation?

[Zaytseva] In order to get out of its situation. And generally, is it good to trade in arms today?

[Bednyakov] I think we cannot narrow this issue down to the question of arms sales alone, because such a large quantity of arms were produced in the former Soviet Union that there are probably enough for the whole world at large. Just tanks alone in Russia...[pauses] The Soviet Union produced as many tanks in 1989 as the rest of the world combined. Of course, there is no need for this quantity of arms, and so to speak exclusively about the problem of arms sales separate from the problem of conversion of military production and the transfer of military enterprises to the output of civilian goods would not be quite correct, I think.

[Orlov] That will be another topic since it directly affects the people of Russia...

[Zaytseva, interrupting] I think it is important to also understand that there is another side to the medal, by selling arms we place ourselves in a rather strange situation. Selling arms to China for instance?

[Bednyakov] It is very difficult to predict various political events in the long range when....

[Zaytseva, interrupting] But we must think about them I would say.

[Bednyakov, continuing] ....particularly when we are talking about developing countries and countries which do not have stable or very stable economic conditions. Of course, we need to think about this and this is a function of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense. They must develop military strategies and military doctrines and the principles they will be based on, and they must determine the list of countries and states, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to which arms can be delivered. Military equipment is a very specific and very delicate commodity and trade in arms must be very delicate, too. And this is why these conditions are very important and must be considered.

[Orlov] That is very good, that one needs to trade delicately. Vladimir Vladimirovich, this is a question for you. Your exhibition last year was the first, right?

[Bessarab] Yes, it was the first, it was called Conversion and there was a small section on weapons....

[Orlov, interrupting] It was almost an underground fair.

[Bessarab] Well, maybe you could say that it was almost an underground fair. But in principle, to answer your question, if we talk about the exhibition of arms—after all they are held everywhere, in every country, not just in Russia—I feel that it is quite moral to deal in arms because if Russia will not trade in arms then somebody else will.

[Orlov] Nature does not tolerate a vacuum.

[Bessarab] Of course. I think that our fair, the Nizhegorod region, is precisely the place where arms can be demonstrated and where arms deals can be made. There is no need to go abroad, let them come here and view the same weapons here.

[Orlov] You plan to make this an annual fair?

[Bessarab] It will be an annual fair. A government decision has been adopted to make this Nizhniy Novgorod fair a traditional one. We feel that this will be a normal thing for Nizhniy Novgorod, the fact that it will happen in our city, because of its geographical location, its economic situation, the infrastructure that we have....

[Orlov, interrupting] And the exhibited goods are nearly all produced in Nizhniy Novgorod.

[Bessarab] I was just about to mention this, that the end products are manufactured in Nizhniy Novgorod, and questions of conversion concern our region most directly.

[Bednyakov] I would like to add that there is more to the fair than just static displays of products. We have special test ranges around the city where this equipment can be shown in action. During the exhibition there will be demonstration flights by aircraft which are produced at the aviation plants in our city. I must say that we did this for the first time last year and—this may relate to the second part of our conversation—most of the city's residents treated this with great understanding and interest because they had never even seen any of this equipment. They would come to the plants, assemble something, yet the equipment itself in the shape that....

[Orlov, interrupting] And that was just last year?

[Bednyakov] Yes. Now the main thing is not that, but what these products represent in action. They had practically never seen them. There were enormous crowds of people when we had the demonstration flights and when the military equipment was displayed. People saw, to some extent, that they had not worked in vain, that they can produce high quality, very classy, and competitive products.

[Orlov] Very well, now tell me, can Nizhniy Novgorod survive at the expense of these plants today? Let us say we do not sell anything abroad, we sell....

[Zaytseva, interrupting] But they have all gone over to conversion.

[Bessarab] We ought to note another issue here, I think. After all the fair is primarily an exhibition of weapons which is followed by their subsequent sale. It follows that a completely legal state standard for weapons sales exists. We do not intend to maintain now that Nizhniy Novgorod will suddenly gather weapons from all over Russia in order to sell them. There is a state structure through which arms will continue to be sold. But they must be demonstrated before they are purchased.

[Orlov] Was anything purchased from you last year?

[Bessarab] No, not last year.

[Bednyakov] In this situation we are possibly most concerned by and interested in not so much the sale of completed products or of a large quantity of weapons as the possibility of establishing cooperative ties between various enterprises.

[Orlov] Of course. Now what does the Krasnoye Sormovo enterprise produce now?

[Bednyakov] Well, the Krasnoye Sormovo plant always used to build submarines. Now literally three days ago we were in Germany where we met representatives of the (Ferrostahl) company which engages in the production of equipment and containers for the storage of poisonous liquids under high pressures. When the president of this company met the director of our Krasnoye Sormovo Plant he said: If a person knows how to make titanium alloys, thick titanium alloy plates, then surely he could make these stainless steel plates for me. So it is profitable for us to cooperate with him because labor costs in Europe, the United States, and Russia simply cannot be compared. So cooperation of this kind is extremely profitable for the West.

[Orlov] What about you?

[Bednyakov] And for us too, of course, because this stabilizes the financial situation at the enterprise, it creates new jobs or at least stops a large number of people from losing their jobs because military production is being shut down. It naturally means wages for these people which in turn affects the well-being of their families, their children, and everything else. So this is the way to stabilize the economic situation. It is just....

[Orlov, interrupting] We will now have washing machines from the Krasnoye Sormovo Plant, right?

[Bednyakov] No, why? We already have them.

[Orlov] Instead of submarines.

[Bednyakov] They are good washing machines with centrifuges. At any rate my wife has no complaints about how they work.

[Orlov] I understand. Thank you. Vladimir Vladimirovich Bessarab and Dmitriy Ivanovich Bednyakov have told us about life in Nizhniy Novgorod today as they see it. It is a city which can practically alone demonstrate enough products at the annual arms and military equipment fair. Thank you.

[Zaytseva] Thank you.

[Bednyakov] Thank you.

International Affairs

Reaction to Russian Parliament Sevastopol Resolution

Zlenko Appeals for UNSC Session

LD1707200493 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1547 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev [no date as received] (UKRINFORM)—As Mykola Maslov, UKRINFORM correspondent at the UN Organization, reported, Viktor Batyuk, Ukraine's permanent representative at the UN Organization, met UN Security Council Chairman David Hannay (Great Britain) during the evening of 16 July and handed him a letter from Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko which reads as follows:

"Esteemed Mr. Chairman:

"In compliance with Paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the UN Charter and in compliance with Rule 3 of the Security Council provisional procedure rules, I request to immediately convene a session of the Security Council to consider the situation that developed as a result of a decision adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on 9 July 1993, concerning the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol.

"The resolution of the Russian Parliament alleges about so-called 'Russian federal status of the city of Sevastopol within the administrative-territorial borders of the city district [okruh] as they were in December 1991,' and entrusts the Council of Ministers (the government of the Russian Federation) 'to elaborate a state program of granting the status of the city of Sevastopol by issuing relevant instructions to the ministries and departments of Russia,' proposes that the Central Bank of Russia should provide for the financing of relevant items of the city of Sevastopol's budget through its branches,' and entrusts the committee for the constitutional legislation of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 'to draft a law of the Russian Federation on fixing the federal status of the city of Sevastopol in the constitution of the Russian Federation.'

"Such a decision by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation cannot be qualified other than flagrant disregard of the universally acknowledged principles and norms of international law, in particular, Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the UN Charter, which is an undisguised encroachment on Ukraine's territorial inviolability, and interference in its domestic and foreign affairs, which is incompatible with the goals and principles of the United Nations Organization. This decision is also a gross violation of obligations stemming from Russia's membership in the United Nations, from participation in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and from bilateral Ukrainian-Russian agreements, in particular, the 19 November 1990 treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, registered at the UN Secretariat in compliance with the Charter of the organization, according to Article 6 of which 'the High Contracting Parties recognize and respect the territorial integrity' of Ukraine and Russia.

"The implementation of the above decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation by the Russian bodies resulted in equivalent actions on the part of Ukraine with the aim of protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The development of the situation that took shape in connection with this may endanger efforts in support of universal peace and security.

"Ukraine regards that the aforementioned decision by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation has no legal grounds or any legal consequences for Ukraine. The issue on the status of the city of Sevastopol is within the exclusive competence of Ukraine. Since 1954, after the Crimean oblast was transferred from the composition of Russia to the composition of Ukraine by the bodies authorized at that time, and in compliance with the 1978 Constitution of Ukraine, the 1978 Constitution of the RSFSR, and the 1977 Constitution of the USSR, Sevastopol has been part of Ukraine as a city of republican subordination, i.e. one of the administrative-territorial units of Ukraine.

"Ukraine, which proclaimed its desire to live in peace, accord, and mutual respect with all the states of the world, first and foremost with its neighbors, resolutely rejects any territorial claims to itself and calls on the UN Security Council to use all its authority with the aim of abrogating the illegal decision by the parliament of the Russian Federation, preventing it from taking any further decisions that may endanger international peace and security throughout the world, and to qualify the decision by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation from the point of view of its conformity with the goals and principles of the UN Charter, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a New Europe, and other fundamental principles of international law.

[Signed] "Anatoliy Zlenko, minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine"

Parliament Demands Withdrawal of Russian Troops

PM1907094393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 3

[Vladimir Maryukha and Grigoriy Nesmyanovich report: "The Russian Parliament Has 'Sown' the Wind in Kiev. Will We Not Reap the Whirlwind in the Black Sea After the 'Tempest in a Teapot'?"]

[Text] Quickly and with no particular disagreements, the Ukrainian Supreme Council has voted for a document which is a response to the decision adopted by the Russian parliament on the status of Sevastopol. A number of points in this document were adopted without ceremony [s golosa], as the saying goes. But the general tone stayed unchanged—a resolute protest to Russian colleagues and a warning of the inevitability of appropriate actions at all levels.

Representatives of a number of factions in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet have in turn called this reaction a "tempest in a teapot." Even this little tempest, however, seems to be already splashing over the edge.

In the sphere of economic relations between the neighboring republics, the Ukrainian parliament has almost eliminated the recent positive achievements, at which Russia and Ukraine have arrived together with Belarus for the first time since the breakup of the Union. But the most important thing, and this decision has already been made, is that the Ukrainian parliament has demanded the withdrawal from the republic's territory of the Russian troops, which, since 1 July, include the staff and division of the Black Sea Fleet coast troops, as well as ships and vessels of the auxiliary fleet which raised St. Andrew's flags following an appeal from the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assembly. This is the first step toward causing the tempest to splash out of the teapot into the Black Sea.

Envoy Hands Resolution to Khasbulatov

LD1607230393 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1945 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev—On the instructions of the Ukrainian Government, Volodymyr Krzhanovskiy, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Russia, handed the resolution by the Ukrainian Supreme Council and the Presidium of the Crimean Supreme Council and the statement by Leonid Kravchuk concerning the resolution of the Russian parliament on the status of Sevastopol to Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov. The Ukrainian ambassador drew Khasbulatov's attention to the fact that the Russian Supreme Soviet's resolution contradicts the norms of international law and has no legal consequences for Ukraine.

Ruslan Khasbulatov pointed out that the resolution of the Russian Supreme Soviet has a declarative nature, so the "Crimean issue" should be submitted for interstate negotiations. He also remarked that Ukraine's naval forces should be created separately from the Black Sea Fleet. Russian people's deputy Andronov, who took part in the meeting, said that the "Crimean tensions" are created by the supporters of Boris Yeltsin who are trying to undermine the prestige of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Naval Commander Affirms Status

LD1607192393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] I am convinced that there was, is, and will be an independent Ukraine including the city of Sevastopol. Common sense is enough to be convinced of this. This was stated by Vice Admiral Borys Kozhyn, commander of the naval forces of Ukraine, in an interview for NEZALEZHNIST. He points out that the Black Sea Fleet Command does not aggravate the principle issues because this relates to politics, and such issues should be tackled either by the parliament or by the president.

Situation in Sevastopol 'Becoming Explosive'

LD1607143593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Telephone report by correspondent Sergey Shatunov from Sevastopol; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Sevastopol concerning the status of the city is becoming explosive. Observers link this with the fact that today there is to be a rally—or as its organizers call it a veche [traditional assembly]—of all the people. It is expected that it may set up parallel city authorities. It is causing amazement that, in spite of the complex situation, the city's leadership and the chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet today left for Kiev.

Well-informed sources close to the Black Sea Fleet headquarters consider it possible that the participants in the veche may today try to tear down the Ukrainian flags in the center of the city and to occupy the administrative buildings. Such a turn of events may provoke official Kiev to introduce direct presidential rule in Sevastopol and in Crimea as a whole. The sources also report that the leadership of the city is also worried by the following facts: since the beginning of July, five trainloads of armored vehicles have arrived in Crimea; under the guise of preparing for exercises, military protection has been strengthened at the Belbek airfield near Sevastopol; the No. 32 Army Corps of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the Berkut special forces group stationed in Simferopol have been put on a state of increased military readiness. And yesterday the first deputy ministers of internal affairs and defense and representatives of the security service flew in to Sevastopol.

Assembly Demands Russian Status

LD1607204093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By correspondent Vladimir Plotnikov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A popular assembly was held in Sevastopol today by locals and Black Sea Fleet sailors to discuss the resolution by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on Sevastopol's status as a Russian town. It submitted in a resolution its demands and requests to the Russian parliament, government, and president to ensure the effect of Russian Federation laws on the territory of the town; and also to appoint the procurator and the chiefs of the security services and Interior Affairs Directorate in Sevastopol.

Accordingly the activity of the Sevastopol deputies in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet must be recognized as illegal, and elections should be held to choose deputies to the Russian parliament. If the present town soviet does not restructure its work in accordance with Russian laws, the veche demands that it be dissolved and new elections called.

The veche calls on Russian leaders to achieve the withdrawal of Ukrainian naval forces and armored equipment from Sevastopol and out of Crimean territory. The veche participants have accused the present commander of the Black Sea Fleet of being unable to defend Russian interests, and have demanded that Admiral Igor Kasatonov, the former fleet commander, be appointed to the post.

They have approved a provision about a Russian popular council in the town of Sevastopol. This council is to ensure the restoration of Russian statehood in the town, after which it will dissolve itself voluntarily and elections will be called for the town soviet and the head of executive authority in the town.

Deputies from the Russian parliament did not make it to the veche. They were not allowed through the customs zone without the necessary special passes.

People's Council Elected

LD1707144493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1418 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol July 17 TASS—An unsanctioned rally of supporters of the Russian status for the city was held at the Nakhimov Square till late at night on Friday. The Russian people's council of Sevastopol was elected by the show of hands, which included leaders and activists of a number of public and political organisations and movements. Aleksandr Kruglov was elected chairman of the Russian people's council of Sevastopol.

The rally adopted a resolution containing a number of demands to the parliament, government and president of Russia. Specifically, it suggests that "a public prosecutor, as well as heads of the security and interior departments be immediately appointed to Sevastopol, and the city council and administration be reformed." So far as the Ukrainian Navy and other military units are concerned, the organisers of the rally believe it is necessary to insist on their removal from Sevastopol and the Crimea. If they refuse, the commanders of the Black Sea Fleet are "authorised" to take preventive measures. With this in view, the resolution says further, it is necessary to discharge the present commander and to give the post back to Admiral Igor Kasatonov.

Although it was late at night and the Nakhimov Square was crowded with people, no incidents were reported.

Assembly Leader Interviewed

MK1707112093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report: "Popular Assembly Gets Russians Together in Sevastopol. 'Black Sea Fleet Is Not Worth a Single Drop of Human Blood'"]

[Excerpts] "The entire Black Sea Fleet would rise in defense of Russian Sevastopol if need be," stated Aleksandr Kruglov, chairman of the National Salvation Front Sevastopol committee, in an interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent. [passage omitted]

Life in Sevastopol is calm and measured. When I asked several dozen city residents, none said he or she was going today to the Popular Assembly where "all of Sevastopol will gather," as A. Kruglov, chairman of the Sevastopol committee of the National Salvation Front [NSF], people's deputy of the Republic of Crimea and of the Sevastopol city soviet, maintained. Kruglov stated in an interview to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that "Russia is ready to ship to Sevastopol lots of things as soon as today." In particular, 150,000 tonnes of various types of fuel, food, and other material resources could be shipped from Novorossiysk. It was decided to commit 4.5 billion rubles each month to support the Black Sea Fleet's activities. This would naturally be done after Russian laws have taken over in Sevastopol. It was supposed that the Popular Assembly, which convened on 16 July at 1900 Moscow time, would set up a Smaller Russian Soviet with Aleksandr Kruglov as its head.

Speaking on Sevastopol radio on 16 July, Kruglov stated: "People of Sevastopol, get ready to give a rebuff should the Ukrainians unleash something." [passage omitted]

Kruglov also said that "special subunits of Russian forces would be brought in to defend Russian Sevastopol if need be."

In an interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Captain 1st Rank Yevgeniy Lupakov, chairman of Ukraine's Naval Officers Union, recalled Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk's words: "All of the Black Sea Fleet is not worth a single drop of human blood." He continued: "Ukraine is prepared to surrender to Russia all the Black Sea Fleet ships, if only to avoid bloodshed here."

Kiev Rally Denounces Resolution on Sevastopol

LD1607225793 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1945 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev—On 16 July there was a rally on Nezalezhnist [Independence] Square, initiated by the national-democratic forces of Ukraine, under the slogan "Sevastopol is a Ukrainian city." More than three thousand Kievites took part in the rally. The speakers denounced the decision by Russian parliamentarians on granting

Sevastopol Russian status, and also denounced the signing by Leonid Kuchma of the economic agreement between Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus.

Adopts Resolution

LD1707120893 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0703 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Kiev, 16 Jul—In Independence Square, a rally on the occasion of the State Sovereignty Day was held under the slogans of "Ukraine is in Danger" and "The City of Sevastopol is Ukrainian." [Passage omitted]

A resolution was adopted. It contains the following demands:

—Ukraine to secede immediately from the CIS;

—Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, Vice Premiers Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, Valentyn Landyk, Valeriy Pustovoytenko, and other Cabinet members involved in attempts effectively to liquidate the Ukrainian state, to resign;

—The Ukrainian president to denounce the Ukrainian prime minister's signature under the statement on urgent measures to deepen economic integration by the Governments of the Republic of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine;

—An appeal to be made to foreign countries' governments and the world community, which would propose that the Russian reactionary forces' policy threatening the security of not only Ukraine but also of the whole world, should be duly assessed, and (?that) Ukraine should be declared a non-bloc nuclear state;

—The Ukrainian president to introduce direct presidential rule in the city of Sevastopol, and the office of the Ukrainian Procurator General to employ the current criminal code against individuals and organizations engaging in [words indistinct] on Ukrainian territory;

—The Supreme Council to repeal its decision on referendum and fix new parliamentary elections for December 1993.

Parties Condemn Russian Parliament's Decision on Sevastopol

LD1607190793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Party of Justice, the Green Party, the Party of Democratic Revival, the Union of Afghanistan Veterans, and the Union Chernobyl today held a joint news conference in Kiev. The talk was about the stand of the parties in relation to the resolution on the status of the city of Sevastopol adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. This decision by the Russian parliamentarians can be assessed unequivocally as interference in the affairs of an independent state. This is an attempt to destabilize relations between both countries. It was pointed out at the news conference that representatives of the structures of authority and legislation of Ukraine should carry out a preventive policy regarding the acute problems that arise and not to act post factum as was the case with Sevastopol.

Dnieper Area Parties, Movements Issue Appeal

LD1707220793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Representatives of 12 national democratic parties, movements, and societies of the Dnieper area [Prydniprovya] have appealed to the president and the Supreme Council of Ukraine with a statement in connection with the recent decision by the Russian parliament concerning Sevastopol.

They assessed this Moscow incident as a gross and inadmissible interference in the internal affairs of sovereign, independent Ukraine. As a matter of fact, the Russian Parliament proclaims not the principle of law but the law according to which, whoever is stronger is right. The authors of the message appealed to the executive and legislative authorities of Ukraine with the demand that our state immediately secede from the CIS, that all Russian troops be withdrawn from Ukrainian territory, that genuine borders be created along the entire perimeter of our state, and also that the national currency be introduced without delay.

Rukh Criticizes Fleet Agreement

LD1807133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa July 18 TASS—Ukraine's mass democratically-oriented political movement Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] believes the current situation in the Crimea Peninsula and about the Black Sea Fleet to be a result of the inconsistent home and foreign policy pursued by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

Assessing in a special statement this situation as a critical, the Rukh movement points out that the agreement reached by Ukraine and Russia on the division of the Black Sea Fleet contains some provisions, which may lead to serious infringements upon Ukraine's territorial integrity and state sovereignty, and threaten the national interests of the former Soviet republic. According to Rukh, this agreement is to divide not only the fleet, but also coastal defence forces and shore facilities, which are now under Ukrainian jurisdiction in compliance with the act on Ukraine's independence. Thus, the accord on the fleet division "sets a dangerous precedent of the emergence of the Russian property and the deployment of Russian troops on the Ukrainian territory, as well as paves the way for the strengthening of separatist trends in other regions of the state", the statement by the Rukh movement stresses.

Paper Details Kravchuk Visit to Nuclear Missile Base

AU1607143493 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 13 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Oleksandr Pobihay, DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA special correspondent: "Missiles and Missilemen"]

[Text] For the first time in all the years of its existence a journalists' "assault force" landed on the missile base. I will not say that the missilemen were particularly happy about it, but they scrupulously adhered to the protocol. One could clearly feel, behind this restraint, their concern about the future and a certain dissatisfaction with the current developments.

The ceremony of the meeting with the president also proceeded without the fanfare usually resserved for this ritual. Commander of the Rocket Troops Lieutenant General V. Mykhtyuk made a brief report on the state of affairs and on the problems that emerge in connection with Ukraine's declared readiness to dismantle its missile potential.

We became convinced that this question was a complicated one when we familiarized ourselves with the equipment of the missile base. It accommodates 90 out of 176 strategic launchers deployed in Ukraine. Everyone of us read much about the equipment and combat potential of these missiles. However, what we saw surpassed our most fantastic notions. It will suffice to say that the command post of that base is a 12-story building. However, it does not reach high into the sky, but is completely concealed underground.

We were not allowed to visit the command post center. This privilege was only granted to the president and defense minister K. Morozov. It was explained to us that, although almost everything about this base is known abroad, there still are things that constitute a secret.

Nor were we lucky enough to visit the silo's instrument section where the RS-18 missile weighing more than 100 tonnes "rests in peace." However, even what we managed to see was sufficient for us to realize that it is a complicated matter to dismantle rocket launchers and risky to boot. Keeping them in "working condition" is not easy either. It turns out that 49 of 64 enterprises and organizations that service these launchers, are located outside of Ukraine. However, the dependence here is reciprocal. The missile bases situated in other CIS countries rely largely on the support of Ukrainian enterprises. Consequently, nobody can unilaterally resolve problems that may arise. Interaction, mutual responsibility, and, of course, mutual financial settlements are necessary.

The missilemen themselves probably understand this better than anyone else. Nobody would want to be in their place right now. The work to which they have dedicated their lives has turned out to be futile. It is also painful for them to think that the "property," they are leaving behind may not be used properly. These doubts are not without foundation. The army commander showed the president photographs of one of the best equipped missile bases in Zhytomyr Oblast, photographs showing its ruins....

All of these problems—the employment of the missilemen and the efficient utilization of their bases—should have been resolved by now.

"I hope that we will demonstrate enough responsibility and adopt a sensible decision—to ratify START I and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty," declared L. Kravchuk.

"At the same time," he continued, "the problem of taking nuclear launchers off combat alert duty must be resolved in a comprehensive way. First of all, it is necessary to conclude an agreement with the Russian Federation so that Ukraine's losses may be compensated. We must also be sure that nobody will make use of these deadly weapons anywhere. Ukraine has the right to its own security guarantees.

Strategic Missile Regiment Removed From Alert Status

LD1607161093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] In Ukraine, the removal from alert status of the first of five strategic missile regiments has started, in accordance with an agreement between the governments of Russia and Ukraine, the newspaper IZVESTIYA reports. There are 10 missiles on alert status in the regiment, each of which has six nuclear warheads. The whole process of their removal from alert status, transport to Russia, and dismantling will take until 10 September. After this, there will be 166 strategic missiles in Ukraine.

Russia Presents Initiative on Maintaining Nuclear Warheads

LD1807173393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Radio Ukraine World Service has been informed that the Russian Government came out with an initiative with relation to the so-called "S" objects deployed in Ukraine. It concerns nuclear engineering units dealing with the maintenance of nuclear warheads. They also provide special preventive maintenance of this type of weapons. According to the draft agreement, all formations deployed on the Ukrainian territory will be subordinated to the Russian Ministry of Defense until the complete elimination of nuclear warheads. The Russian side also undertakes to ensure scientific and technical provisions for the use of these components during this period. At the same time, safeguards for their security must be provided. Ukraine's official circles have made no statements yet on their attitude to the draft.

Kravchuk Sees Possibility of New Union of States

PM1907103193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[INTERFAX report under "Echo of Day" rubric: "L. Kravchuk: Political Union of States of Former USSR Is Possible"]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk considers the creation of a political union of republics of the former USSR possible. Speaking on national television, he explained that such a union must be based "on the principles of equal rights, statehood, and adherence to democratic norms."

Turkey, Ukraine Sign Military Cooperation Memorandum

LD1607202693 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1606 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, 16 Jul— A memorandum on mutual understanding was signed today between the Ministry of Machine-Building, Military-Industrial Complex and Conversion of Ukraine and the National Defense Ministry of the Republic of Turkey. This document has become the final result of the official visit to Ukraine by [National Defense Minister] Nevzat Ayaz, head of the Turkish military department.

The defense industry of Turkey, like that of other states, is now going through the process of conversion, said Valeriy Kazakov, deputy minister of industry, military-industrial complex and conversion of Ukraine for foreign economic relations, during his conversation with a UKRINFORM correspondent. Ukraine is interested in cooperation in this field. The memorandum opens up prospects for systematic work in this direction. A mutual exchange of expert groups has been envisaged to study our possibilities. This work has a long-term perspective.

Ukraine and Turkey are the closest neighbors, the deputy minister said further on. We have many common interests that envisage cooperation in the future in various spheres, machine-building included.

During his visit to Ukraine the national defense minister of the Republic of Turkey was received by the president of Ukraine. He had official meetings with the Ukrainian defense minister, leaders of the military-industrial complex of the Ukrainian state, people's deputies, visited a number of enterprises, and military-educational establishments of the country. The Turkish military delegation considered a number of issues of mutual interest, and achieved a common point of view on the international security issue. The military departments of Ukraine and Turkey came out with a memorandum on mutual understanding that laid down the basis of further cooperation between the two states of the Black Sea region in the military sphere.

Today Nevzat Ayaz, national defense minister of the Republic of Turkey, left Kiev for his homeland.

UN Peacekeeping Force in Bosnia Being Replaced

LD1707051793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0512 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev July 17 TASS—A peace-keeping contingent of Ukrainian forces deployed in former Yugoslavia as a part of U.N. peace keeping force is being replaced, the press service of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence reported.

On Friday night a plane IL-76 took off from Nikolayev Airport in Ukraine bound for Sarajevo. On board the plane there were Ukrainian servicemen who will replace soldiers and officers of the Ukrainian battalion of the U.N. peace-keeping force.

National Affairs

Kuchma Makes Appeal to Agricultural Workers

LD1707145893 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 0724 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Ukrainian land workers are about to begin harvesting en masse, which is the high point of a grain grower's year. In connection with this, Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has made an appeal to those working on the land.

Lately, the appeal says, I have traveled the roads of almost half the regions, visited scores of farms and enterprises, and met with their management and workforce. This is because the worrying, difficult, and yet happy time of harvesting is coming. It is, of course, clear to everyone that Ukraine's future depends on whether the country has enough grain this year and whether we can keep bread prices affordable to the majority of the population. That is why I thought it my duty not only to see the degree of readiness for harvesting, but also to see for myself how our government's agrarian policy, the main point of which is restoring a fair industrial and agricultural product pricing policy, is being implemented locally.

The government is taking every measure to carry out harvesting work in an organized manner and to provide the harvesting campaign with petrol, oil, and lubricants at all costs. I think that specialists, farm managers, and every rural worker clearly realize how important it is right now to fully use every minute of their working time to prevent losses of grain and to ensure that what has been grown is reliably preserved.

The state resources have already been supplied with 260 tonnes of grain. In all, we hope that we shall have 14.5 tonnes under the state order. Calculations show that it is quite possible.

The government has offered the farms three versions of the terms of grain procurement toward the state order. Purchase prices are seen by land workers as fully acceptable. They told me about it during our meetings. Now everything will depend on rural workers themselves.

A land worker nowadays cannot be decreed into buying deficient, uneconomical combine harvesters or sowers. That is why the government will invest funds where they will produce the biggest return. In particular, we want to regenerate arable land in the south of Ukraine, which will guarantee large crops. Both in terms of that, and in terms of the current harvesting situation, we are relying not only on land workers, but also on the widest possible support of local authorities.

Plyushch, Kuchma in Crimea for Holidays

LD1707235593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The television and radio company "Novyny" disproves the report by the Moscow-based television company "Ostankino" to the effect that on 16 July Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council, and Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma allegedly arrived in Sevastopol. Official sources in Kiev report that both are in the Crimea on a short-term holiday, which had been planned in advance. Their arrival on the Crimean peninsula is in no way caused by the developments around Sevastopol.

Transport-Related Crime Statistics Published

AU1607172493 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 13 Jul 93 p 2

[Yuriy Kotnyuk report: "Transport-Related Crime Has Decreased by 1 Percent"]

[Text] **This is the figure mentioned at a news conference held at the Southwestern Administration of Internal Affairs for Questions of Transport. Over the five months of the current year, the total number of crimes has decreased, but it still comes up to 7,500 cases.**

The crimes that have been perpetrated include 2,682 thefts of state property and 935 of private property, 302 robberies, 45 armed robberies, 13 cases of rape, and 12 murders.

It is particularly alarming that, not infrequently, those to whom victims come for help turn out to be criminals—first and foremost transport officials. For example, on 25 May, three Moldovan citizens were beaten up and robbed by three conductors on the "Chisinau-Moscow" train. In a similar situation on 2 June on the "St. Petersburg-Chisinau" train, a Bulgarian citizen M. became such a victim.

In order to take possession of other people's property, criminals resort to all sort of tricks. Recently, residents of some Caucasian republics began to use a method that had previously been mainly practiced by prostitutes in restaurants—theft with the help of psychotropic substances. In such cases the criminals target, on the platform, a victim that seems to be wealthy and try to get into the same compartment with that person. Later, pretending to be sincere and generous "children of the mountains," they offer a drink of some national beverage to mark the new friendship. If the fellow traveler refuses to drink cognac, wine appears on the table, and so on to innocent tea. Several ophthalmic drops added to the glass are sufficient to cause the blood pressure and the pulse rate to fall—and the victim loses consciousness. When he comes to, he finds that his money, personal belongings, and documents are missing. In this way, a woman on a Kharkiv train was robbed and raped by several Caucasians. Therefore, dear passengers, be careful before you yield to the temptation of a free drink.

The militia does not sit idle: Its officers have disclosed two-thirds of the thefts, three-quarters of the robberies, and almost all of the armed robberies. The struggle against the spread of narcotics is also in progress—this year alone, 2.5 tonnes of poppy straw have been confiscated. For example, at the Lvov Station, officers of the line department of internal affairs have detained local residents V.Ye. Donets and Ye. S. Kuznetsov from whom 40 kilograms of narcotic raw materials have been confiscated. The same amounts of poppy straw have been confiscated from a resident of Moscow, L.Yu. Petrakova, and an Armenian citizen, S.Zh. Petrosyan.

The illegal transportation of weapons and munitions exposes passengers to great danger. This year, 149 such facts have been recorded. The powerful flow that arms the young Ukrainian mafia mainly issues from the restless Dniester Region.

On 24 April, on the "Chisinau-St. Petersburg" train, two passengers were detained. Militiamen confiscated from them one machinegun and four grenade launchers complete with a full set of munitions.

There are successes in combating crime, although they have been achieved at a high price. This year, there have already been 74 attacks on militiamen; two militiamen have perished, six been wounded, and in 10 cases the guards of order used weapons. Besides, the militia has to overcome other obstacles, among which are shortcomings in the legislative foundation, the shortage of personnel, and the poor material and technological provision. The misfortunes of the law-enforcement officers do not change....

Counterfeit Dollars Confiscated in Dnepropetrovsk

AU1607145893 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 13 Jul 93 p 2

[Report by the DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA News Service: "The Mohair Dollar"]

[Text] In Dnepropetrovsk, the fruits of work of extremely skilled counterfeiters were revealed. The criminals used regular mohair, which they managed to press into specially treated paper, thereby creating an illusion of a genuine dollar. Banknotes with the denomination of $20 totalling about $2,000 have been confiscated. It now remains to find the unknown masters.

New Party of Solidarity, Social Justice Created

WS1907104393 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 15 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by Larysa Kozyk: "One More Political Party"]

[Text] One more political force—the Ukrainian Party of Solidarity and Social Justice [UPSSS]—has appeared in Ukraine. The party's program was adopted at the Constituent Assembly held in Kiev. The main task of the UPSSS, underlines the program, is to help people reach and taste the true meaning of freedom and democracy, and spontaneously express creativity and practical abilities.

The new party has been founded by entrepreneurs, scientists, and intellectuals. An Austrian businessman, Edward Lashutin, who has returned to the homeland after a 20-year exile, was elected the head of the Coordinative Council of the UPSSS.

Communist Party Central Committee Plenum Held 17 Jul

LD1707235793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The plenum of the central committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, held on 17 July in Kiev, was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Ukraine. Issues of re-registering members of the Communist Party of Ukraine, preparing documents for the party's registration at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, and establishing the party newspaper were considered at the plenum.

The Communist Party's attitude toward the referendum was considered as a separate issue. According to the first secretary of the central committee of the Communist party of Ukraine, Petro Symonenko, the communists express the interests of the working people and their position on this issue is to mistrust the policy of the president and the Supreme Council.

Party Proposes Cossack Unit To Join Armed Forces

LD1707151493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Participants in a joint sitting of the Ukrainian Republican Party's and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists' district branches in the town of Borshchev decided that the first voluntary Cossack company should be formed in Ternopol Oblast.

The participants in the sitting intend to request President Leonid Kravchuk and Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov to accept the first voluntary Cossack company as a unit in the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

This was reported by the information service of the Ukrainian Republican Party Ternopol Oblast branch.

Belarus

New Candidate Named in Presidential Race

LD1607164993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent Aleksey Zhuk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The Supreme Soviet has not set the dates for the future elections, but a candidate for the president of Belarus has already appeared. Count Aleksandr Prushinskiy, citizen of Canada and Poland and a native of Belarus, has come forward. With his team, that is like-minded people in the Christian Democratic Alliance of Belarus, he visited the national television and radio company, having notified the correspondents' branch of Ostankino in Minsk of his visit in advance. The news conference started with a prayer. Then the candidate for the post of head of state acquainted people with his electoral platform and set out his vision of the republic's situation. In his opinion, prosperity and democracy can only be achieved with a Christian attitude to one's affairs, life, and people. [passage omitted]

Inventory of Arms, Military Property Planned

WS1907083293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] According to the directive of the Belarusian Council of Ministers, an inventory of arms, military equipment, and military-technical property of the Belarusian Armed Forces will be conducted. The Defense Ministry, along with the State Planning Committee for Economy and the State Committee for State Property, are authorized to resolve the issues of the further use of the outdated arms and military equipment, which are not currently used in the Army, and the defective equipment, for which repairs are not economically feasible.

Moldova

Russia Grants Financial Aid to Dniester

AU1807202693 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1700 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/7/1993—The Russian Federation has granted 16 billion rubles to the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. From those, 410 million were allocated to the city of Ribnita, stated today the newspaper "TARINA" (The Land), quoting Dniester sources. The money will be used to buy energy resources. In addition, a train with gasoline and 28 wagons with liquid gas are on their way to Ribnita, the newspaper mentioned. The Russian aid was also granted to a list of agricultural farms on the left bank of river Dniester, for finishing the harvesting campaign. Ribnita, one of the most industrialised cities on the left bank of Dniester, had recently hosted a meeting of representatives of city enterprises. The technology lines of these enterprises permit the production of guns and weaponry. These plants had been ordered to restart the production of guns and munitions, interrupted a year ago after the war had been stopped. According to several sources, the Dniester government had allocated important sums of money for this purpose.

Dniester Faces Trade Deficit

AU1807201293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1713 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 16/7/1993—Reliable sources have informed BASA press that the budget deficit of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic with Russia in the first half of this year was 35 billion rubles. From those 100 billion rubles which are planned by the contract of reciprocal deliveries concluded by the Tiraspol Government with "Rosscontract," deliveries of combustion and other energy resources to Dniester comprised more than 40 billion tonnes. In the course of the first six months of the year Dniester delivered to Russia goods totaling 5 billion rubles in exchange for these resources. These deliveries of resources and energy sources to Dniester were seized during a period of two months. Local observers expressed that intentions to pay by clearing a settlement with the help of the Military Bank of the 14th Army had failed due to strong differences between the Tiraspol leadership and the 14th army.

Russian Rocket Brigade Withdraws From Tighina

AU1807172093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRES, 15/7/1993—Reliable sources have informed BASA that the Rocket Brigade of the Russian 14th Army has finished its retreat from Tighina. Almost all the patrimony and weaponry of the brigade had been moved to Russia. The buildings of the Tighina Fortress, which belonged to the brigade, were transferred to the Russian peace keeping forces from the area. Victor Catana, the vice minister of the interior, the co-president of the Unified Supervision Commission from the Moldovan part, affirmed, while being questioned by a BASA-press reporter, that the problem of headquarters liberated by Russian troops was pointed out during a meeting between the Russian delegation members from the sixth round of talks regarding the withdrawal of the 14th Army and representatives of the Unified Control Commission (UCC). "In that round we proposed to demilitarise the security zone. Including the use of barracks and other facilities which had been previously occupied by Russian troops exclusively for non-military purposes. This proposal was accepted during that round by the Russian party as well as by the Tiraspolian representative," clarified the cited source. "However, subsequently, when we tried to officialise this consensus within the UCC, its co-president from the Tiraspolian part, Vladimir Botnar, the vice-president of the Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Dniestrian

Republic, categorically refused to accept our proposal and insisted on letting these facilities remain under the control of local authorities, i.e. separatist bodies from Tighina (Bender)", added Catana. The vice-minister of the interior also stated that the decision regarding the location of Russian peace keeping troops in "military boroughs" which had been abandoned by military officers, of the 14th Army, was adopted within the UCC, so that Dniester guardians cannot use them. In the same connection, the Moldovan minister of defence proposed to transfer the Tower of Tighina (Bender) to the Moldovan Ministry of Culture in order to transform it into a museum complex.

Tiraspol Claims 14th Army Military Hardware

AU1807171393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/7/1993—The Tiraspolian Agency Olivia-press broadcasted today a declaration in connection with suggestions made by Vladimir Kitayev, the chief of the delegation from the Russian Federation, in talks with the Republic of Moldova concerning the withdrawal status and agenda of the 14th Army. Kitayev affirmed in an interview that machines at the disposal of the 14th Army will be transferred to Moldova as the withdrawal of this army takes place. The declaration expressed the official position of authorities of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs headed by Andrey Kozyrev. These authorities accused the ministry of making too many concessions to Moldova during the talks. According to the cited source, all military machines and armaments at the disposal of the 14th Army must remain in Dniester in order to supply military forces of the Dniester Republic.

Lebed Accuses Dniester Leadership of Criminal Ties

AU1807171793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRES, 15/7/1993—General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, stated in a letter published in "DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA" that the Dniester mass media is promoting a campaign of propaganda. This campaign aims to rehabilitate some criminal elements and call them political martyrs before the public opinion. Lebed referred to the four officers from the regiment 300 of parachutists which is located in Chisinau. These individuals have been qualified by the Tiraspol Prosecutor Boris Luchik as common criminals. They used to commit car robberies and were involved in the illegal traffic of car parts. General Lebed accused Tiraspol authorities of protectionism and links with the outlaw world, the quoted source stated.

14th Army Department Investigated for Embezzlement

AU1807201193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1713 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 16/7/1993—Serious embezzlement were discovered within the Department for Military Commerce of the 14th Army, communicated a BASA-press reporter, citing reliable sources. The military prosecution sued the chief of Military Commerce Department, Perekrystov. Representatives of the Russian Ministry of Defence arrived in Tiraspol in order to study cases of embezzlements. In order to avoid responsibility, the staff of the department in question had a meeting during which they made an attempt to pass under the jurisdiction of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. The leadership from Tiraspol assured them that the file will be stopped.

Snegur Discusses Economic Ties, Dniester in Romania

LD1707214093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[Text] Bucharest, 17 July—The talks held today testify to the mutual political desire of Romania and the Republic of Moldova to provide a new stimulus to specific activity for developing mutual relations. This was stressed by Ion Iliescu, president of Romania, during a news conference held here on the results of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur's visit to the country.

At the talks the two delegations examined issues of economic cooperation in various sectors, the Romanian leader noted, and the sides agreed to promote the development of direct economic links.

There are currently 250 joint Romanian-Moldovan companies registered in Bucharest, while in Kishinev they number 75. The urgent question of the setting up of a joint bank and joint chamber of commerce was also discussed. The talks also analyzed the pressing need for improving the border and customs control - around three million citizens crossed the Romanian-Moldovan border in both directions last year alone.

The Republic of Moldova is interested in setting up a port on the Danube and the appropriate Romanian ministries will study the possibility of helping Moldova. During the talks particular attention was focused on the preparation of a treaty between the two states, the development of a draft of which is scheduled for completion by September or October 1993. This treaty will have special meaning and content, I. Iliescu stressed, and it is to be different from the treaties which Romania and Moldova have concluded with other neighboring countries.

M. Snegur decisively rejected the assertion which appeared in the press recently that Romanian-Moldovan relations have "cooled" and said that there was absolutely no question of this. He noted that during the talks extensive discussions were held on questions of economic reform in the two countries, in particular, the preparations in Moldova for the introduction of a national currency - the Moldovan lei. It is planned to implement this measure as early as the end of 1993 which, however, does not mean renouncing economic links with CIS partners, the Moldovan leader said in clarification.

Replying to journalists' questions, M. Snegur stressed that Moldova expects Romanian support in the world arena on the issue of the Dniester region. He noted that the activity of the quadripartite mechanism for settling the conflict in the Dniester region was also discussed at today's talks. M. Snegur said the sides established that its activity has currently been suspended because of Russia and, therefore, the idea has arisen of replacing this mechanism with a tripartite one in which only countries which are immediate neighbors would be involved - that is, without Russia.

Snegur Promises Protection of Ethnic Rights

LD1707150893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau July 17 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has described as "groundless" the stand of Russia, which believes that the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from the left bank of the Dniester River should be timed to coincide with the determination of a special status of the Dniester region.

During his meeting with a delegation of the assembly of the North Atlantic Alliance Snegur said that the conflict in the Dniester region was the result of "invented problems and political ambitions." He believes that the withdrawal of the Russian Army will not bring about any conflicts for most of the Russians living on the right bank of the Dniester.

Since representatives of the North Atlantic Alliance expressed concern over the situation of the Russian-speaking population, Snegur assured them that the republican leadership is doing its utmost for protecting the rights of national minorities which make up 35 per cent of the population. After the Dniester region and the southern regions with the predominantly Gagauz population are granted a special status, it is planned to give guarantees to all ethnic groups, the Moldovan president stressed.

German Official Arrives, Seeks Improved Ties

AU1807171693 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRES, 15/7/1993—"My visit to the Republic of Moldova is a response to the visit of Nicolae Tau, the Moldovan minister of foreign affairs to Bonn. It will improve relations between the two states which we are eager to strengthen and extend," stated to BASA Helmut Schafer, state secretary, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Germany, upon his arrival at the Chisinau airport. During his visit, the German guest will meet Timothy Williams, head of the CSCE mission to Moldova. "We shall finish the agreement on basic directions in cooperation between Moldova and Germany, which is to be signed in Bonn during the visit of Mircea Snegur this autumn," stated Nicolae Tau, minister of foreign affairs of Moldova, to the BASA correspondent. Mr. Tau added that opportunities to open an embassy in Bonn and a consulate in Frankfurt will also be discussed during the talks.

Ukrainian, Moldovan Security Services Unite To Combat Crime

LD1607140493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau July 16 TASS—A visiting delegation of Ukrainian National Security Service led by Colonel General Yevgeniy Marchuk signed a convention on cooperation with their Moldovan counterparts in Chisinau on Friday [16 July].

The document envisages that the two parties will join efforts in combatting organized crime, arms and drugs trafficking.

The convention serves to implement the bilateral agreement on friendship and cooperation signed by the Ukrainian and Moldovan presidents at the beginning of the year.

Ethnic Ukrainians Seek Ukrainian Citizenship

AU1807201593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1713 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 16/7/1993—Approximately two thousand people from Moldova, the majority being from eastern regions, submitted to the Ukrainian regional section for visa from Odessa their applications to obtain Ukrainian citizenship. According to a note from the Ministry of External Affairs of Moldova these applications will be accepted only upon presentation of a certificate stating rejection of Moldovan citizenship. A document from the regional section of the educational staff affirming the ability to speak Ukrainian is also required. A limit of 5 years of permanent residence has been established for men. The Supreme Soviet of Ukraine adopted legislation according to which refugees are aided by favourable conditions for obtaining Ukrainian citizenship.

Dniester Soviet To Discuss Language Law

AU1807171993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Comrat BASAPRESS, 15/7/1993—The Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic plans to start its ordinary session on the 5th of August. They will discuss two projects of laws. First position of agenda is occupied by the law regarding languages in circulation on the territory of the southern regions of Moldova. It will decree the use of Gagauzian, Russian, and Moldovan languages on the territory in question. Next is the project of the law regarding the local self-administration, which, in case it becomes a law, will give assent to the existence of parallel structures of state power in regions of Moldova which are densely populated by Gagauzians. Political analysts stated that although a large discussion of the corresponding project by population was planned, according to a decision by the presidium of the self-proclaimed republic, such attempts failed. Right now, the population mostly cares about harvesting and agricultural works and mitigating subsequences of natural disasters recently experienced by regions of Comrat, Ciadir Lunga etc. from the southern part of Moldova.

Ribnita Restarts Armaments Production

AU1807201493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1713 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 16/7/1993—A meeting between representatives of enterprises which can produce armaments took place here at a factory producing pumps from Ribnita, stated BASA-press by citing reliable sources. Industrialists received an order to restart the production of armaments which had been interrupted after last year's Dniester conflict ended. Under conditions of a crisis of financial means, the state order by the government from Tiraspol, which allocated important budgetary funds, is in itself more than a profitable order for enterprises from Ribnita. Throwers of small-size grenades will be produced at the factory producing pumps. A concrete factory is preparing conditions necessary for changing anti-hail rocket installations "Alazan" for military purposes. The metallurgic combine is already equipped with the necessary periferials [as received] for producing 6 throwers of mines having a caliber equal to 82 mm. Specialists from the factory of hydraulic pumps from Chisinau clarified to a BASA-press reporter that the similar enterprise from Ribnita has the necessary equipment for producing armament.

Dniester Industrial, Enterprise Association Established

AU1807201393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1713 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 16/7/1993—Yesterday in Tiraspol a founding conference for the Industrial and Enterprise Association of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic took place. The conference was comprised of 112 heads of enterprises with different forms of ownership from Dniester region. In the course of this conference an executive Committee headed by Ghimn [as received] Pologov, the Director of "Electrofarfor" from Tighina (Bender), the director of "Atlant" firm, the deputy of parliament from Moldova, the deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic and a member of the Economic Council of the Moldovan president. During the conference Grigore Maracuta, the president of the Supreme Soviet from Tiraspol, declared that in the course of the meeting with Arkadiy Volskiy, the president of the Industrial and Enterprise Association of Russia, they agreed that the Dniester Association will enter the Russian structures as a regional representative. Referring to ending the crisis which Tiraspol faces at present, Igor Smirnov, the president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, mentioned that he tried but failed to get from the Central Russian Bank the right to print Russian money in Tiraspol. At present, the Tiraspol Government is working on a plan of clearing settlement introduction.

Dniester Refugees To Be Given Apartments

AU1807171193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/7/1993— Tudor Nirean, the president of the work group of the Commission for Liquidation of the Military Conflict's Consequences in Dniester discussed the 300 refugees who cannot return home for fear of persecution by authorities of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. They will be supplied with 200 apartments by the 1st of August in Chisinau, Cornesti, Basarabeasca, and Nisporeni. "At present our work group examines all possibilities for supplying with accommodation those refugees the number of whom unfortunately is increasing even now," declared the cited source. In the course of yesterday's session of the work group Stefan Uratu, the president of Helsinki Committee of Moldova for Human Rights, declared as highly unsatisfactory the measures for protection of the refugees. According to reliable sources from the Government of Chisinau financing of hotels for refugees will be suspended by the 1st August.

Military Pensions To Be Withheld From Non-Citizens

AU1807202493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1700 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/7/1993—According to a recent decision of the Government of Chisinau all pensioners of the Ministry of Defence of the former USSR will not receive any assistance if they do not claim Moldovan citizenship by the 1st of September of this year, stated an article published today in the newspaper of Russian expression "KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI." The data released by the military department indicates that the majority of pensioners are preparing documents for obtaining citizenship. Simultaneously, lists of pensioners of the Ministry of Defence are being compiled. Those mentioned in these lists have categorically refused to take Moldovan citizenship and their bank accounts will be closed, added the cited source. The newspaper asks if Russia is ready to pay welfare for pensioners if they obtain Russian citizenship and whether Moldova will continue to pay its pensioner citizens if they are moving to Russia for permanent residence.

Deputy Andronic Calls For New Elections

AU1807201093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1713 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 16/7/1993—Parliament proved once more its inability to act while resolving Gagauzian and Dniester "knots" affirmed Nicolae Andronic, the president of the Parliamentary Commission for Judicial Problems, the president of Sub-Commission for Resolving Problems of the Eastern Regions of the Republic, in an interview from "REPUBLICA" of the Moldovan Social Democratic Party. This fact is not a secret any more. Practically all of the deputies are aware of the fact that the supreme legislative will not resolve anything in its present state. However, this parliament satisfies many people because their departure will be the end of their political life, said Andronic. The present parliament must adopt a new electoral law and dissolve itself. If not, dissent will become even more intense, declared the cited source. In the opinion of Andronic, the present executive power headed by Mircea Snegur is capable of resolving the problem of the republic's integrity and to proceed with national elections. When questioned about weekly talks with the Tiraspolian commission, Andronic clarified that he faced refusals from the very beginning on the part of Tiraspolian representatives to recognise the Moldovan territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Statistics Department Reports Drop in Production

AU1807171293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/7/1993—State Department of Statistics indicated that during the first semester of 1993 the national volume of production dropped in 1993 by 20.2 percent in comparison with the level of the same period of last year. In agriculture the decline comprised 36 percent and in industry there was noticed a small increase of volume of production comprising 0.9 percent. Vasile Pentelei, the head of State Department of Statistics underlined that an increase by 7 and 37 percent of industrial and agricultural products correspondingly is illusive and had been reached only by skyrocketing of prices. The total volume of industrial production during six months of this year expressed in figures doesn't exceed 74.3 percent in comparison with 1992. According to experts from the Ministry of Economy the decline of production has a constant character and is determined by economic disequilibrium, collapse of traditional relations with former partners and lack of raw materials. The rate of inflation during the first semester of this year comprised 24.3 percent but actually some experts expressed that it exceeds 300 percent. National bank released in circulation 29.8 billion rubles including 23.7 billion coupons.

Foreign Trade Exchanges Register Negative Balance

AU1807171493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/7/1993—A report of the State Department of Statistics indicated that during the period of January-May of this year the Republic of Moldova exported goods amounting to $76.9 million and imported goods to $78.8 million. In comparison with the same period last year an increase of export transactions comprising 0.1 percent and import volume by 20 percent is pointed out. Simultaneously, the volume of currency transactions has increased by 160 percent. Moldova has economic relations with 50 countries. Economic experts from Chisinau noticed a substantial decline of Moldovan external commerce with Romania. It dropped from 64.4 during the first five months of 1992 to 32.4 in 1993. At the same time, in comparison with last year an increase in the intensity of goods exchanged between Romania and Moldova has been noticed. Germany occupies an important place in external commerce of Moldova, the quota of which comprises 15.8 percent, added the cited source.

Deputy Criticizes Law on Foreign Investments

AU1807171593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/7/1993—The law regarding investment of foreign capital, which was approved a year ago, does not permit to apply the international right norms in the protection of foreign capital. This statement belongs to the deputy Valeriy Lebedev, doctor in justice. "Certain points of this law could merely scare foreign investors we rely so much on" the author stressed. According to this document, enterprises using foreign capital can be halted "on the basis of a decision of competent organs in case the legislation is gravely violated." In the opinion of Lebedev, such phrases allow bureaucracies to interpret the law as they like. The law does not specify what values can be considered as foreign capital and it doesn't express the right of investors to use land and natural resources. The contractual forms of organization of production, as well as special credits, are also not included. Thus, the foreign participant is never sure he can enjoy the status of a foreign investor. In many cases, the law only gives the foreign investors the right to address governmental state bodies in order to sign agreements of concession or obtain special permits for the activity of entrepreneur. "This is specific for a planned economy when the state structures retain a monopoly in relations which are based on judicial norms," Valeriy Lebedev asserts.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Issues Resolution on Joint Stock Companies

LD1807164693 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] President Nursultan Nazarbayev issued a resolution on upgrading the system of bodies of economic management. With the aim of improving the efficiency of state regulation of the economic complex and of setting up new economic management structures that are market relations oriented, it is planned to set up national joint stock companies and state joint stock companies—including holding companies.

The state block of shares of the joint stock companies, which will become a part of the organized companies, is being transferred to the authorized funds of these companies, except for the parcel of shares that will be assigned to Goskomushchestvo [State Directorate for Managing State Property] for implementing in accordance with directions of the National Program for Privatizating and Dismantling state property in 1993-1995. (second stage).

Companies are given the right to own, use, and manage the state property of enterprises and organizations that have joined them, in accordance with the relevant enforceable enactments. It is established that after the floating of enterprises the state block of shares of the joint stock companies—organized on the basis of state enterprises, except for the block of shares transferred to Goskomimushestvo to be realized from it—are given to relevant companies to be owned, used, and managed by them.

The state directorate for state property is given the right to introduce changes into the list of enterprises to be included in these companies.

Government, Unions Issue Joint Declaration on Cooperation

LD1607173693 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Declaration on the fundamentals of cooperation between the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists of Kazakhstan.

The Cabinet of Ministers, the Council of the Trade Union Federation, and Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists of Kazakhstan, expressing their concern with the crisis in the economy, and understanding the necessity of joint effort in the active search for efficient proper measures in tackling the problems of economy and social policy, and creating conditions to improve people's life, believing that only such joint efforts of people from different walks of life will enable them to lead the republic out of the crisis and ensure civil peace and consensus, retaining the right to be independent in assessing the developments and determining an independent approach to the situation, came to the conclusion that further implementation of deep democratic changes is not possible, without creating a stable economic basis and provision of human rights and freedoms, as well as social guarantees.

Proclaiming adherence to the main principles of the ILO (International Labor Organization) and observing its conventions and recommendations as Kazakhstan is a member country, standing for deepening social and economic transformations, reforms, and stabilization of the economy, the sides agreed on the following:

—to build their relations on the principle of social partnership, to tackle arising problems by way of a civilized dialogue on the basis of the adopted laws and corresponding enforceable enactments and procedural normatives;

—to refrain from steps aggravating social tension;

—to timely examine disputable questions and take urgent measures to resolve them.

The sides believe the main aim of their joint efforts to be the formation of a socially orientated mixed economy based on the synthesis of competitive market self-regulation of production, and macroeconomic regulation of basic parameters of economic development by the state.

To reach this aim the sides believe it necessary to tackle the following problems:

—to stabilize production, implement necessary restructuring and ensure output of production which will meet the requirements of the national economy and the republic's population.

—to debug the system of credit and monetary relations and banking services, to promote the implementation of timely payments, cash payments, curbing the inflation processes;

—to strive for an economically effective and socially just policy of privatization of state property;

—to elaborate and put forward proposals to be examined by the Supreme Kenges [parliament] to change the legislature connected with price policy, making it more anti-inflationary;

—to reform the taxation system and bring it into line with the interests of society, state and economic entities, to ensure the efficiency of legislature for evasion of tax payments and concealment of incomes;

—to elaborate and implement the policy for effective support of entrepreneurship in the sphere of production of goods, works, and services;

—to think over the system of measures of economic stabilization of regions, and to enter necessary changes and corrections into territorial programs of social and economic development;

—to study alternative programs submitted by public movements for social and economic development, to adjust their rationales with managerial practices; —to improve the legislature in conformity with ILO conventions and recommendations in order to regulate labor relations, as well as policy in the sphere of labor protection and safety;

—to reform the payment system for hired labor so that minimum wages corresponds to a consumer basket;

—to give workers opportunities to a creative development given they observe stipulations of their labor agreement;

—to ensure constitutional rights to all citizens;

—to give the status of nationwide importance to the development of culture;

—to create an atmosphere of cooperation and team spirit among industrial trade unions and industrial state management;

—to make joint efforts in prevention of economic crimes, corruption, and bribery.

The parties concerned agreed to form a Consultative Council on an equal representation basis and a permanent working group. They are sure that joint efforts will promote economic reform, preserve stability in the republic, and increase the population's living standards. The declaration is open to be joined by any trade unions or employers.

Cabinet, National Bank Endorse Resolution on Currency

LD1707125693 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 2300 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The cabinet of ministers and the National Bank have endorsed a joint resolution on putting into effect quotations for currencies of the republics of the former USSR. This decision was made with the aim of regulating accounts between the economic subjects of Kazakhstan and those of other republics of the former union. The economic subjects of Kazakhstan were instructed to take into account the fact that every republic that was once a part of the USSR has its own currency and bank deposits and a rate according to which its currency is being recalculated against Kazakhstan's bank deposits.

It was decided to set up at the National Bank of the republic a state surplus fund of currencies of the republics that were once a part of the USSR. Not less than 30 percent of export profits accumulated by the economic subjects of the republic will be placed to the abovementioned fund, with simultaneous capital outflow of its equivalent in their accounts in Kazakhstan's bank deposits at the official rate which existed on the date of the payment into the account.

The resolution stresses that sales of hard currency from the surplus fund will be carried out by the National Bank at the hard currency auction. The purchased hard currency should be used within 10 working days to pay foreign suppliers for contracts. As soon as the term expires it should be compulsorily sold back to the National Bank at an official rate.

The economic subjects and the exporters of their own produce have priority in buying currency. This resolution comes into force on 15 July.

Coal Mining Under Way After Closure of Nuclear Test Site

LD1707133393 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0600 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Coal extraction, a new branch of the economy, has appeared with the closure of the nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk Irtysh region. As long ago as 1967 geologists discovered this rich deposit of valuable fuel. The USSR Ministry of Defense banned the prospecting of it at a time. Now the deposit, believed to be the biggest in the eastern part of the republic, is being intensively developed by a branch establishment of Semey joint stock company. Last year more than 200,000 tonnes of coal were extracted here. Railways and highways as well as power lines and other engineering lines were built.

Paper Views Financial Relations With Russia, CIS

PM1907101793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev: "Extraordinary Financial Regime Reintroduced in Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Almaty—The setback at the Russian-Kazakh government talks in the middle of June and the subsequent delay in granting Kazakhstan a state credit have drastically complicated the situation in the republic's financial sphere. The Kazakhstan Government has been obliged to take a number of steps aimed at introducing a tougher regime of external accounting with the CIS states and at stepping up control over the circulation of cash and noncash money and the activity of the banks.

Since 1 August enterprises, institutions, and organizations of all forms of ownership, including commercial stores, must receive money only through cash registers and must issue a receipt to every customer. A drastic restriction has been imposed on the issue of cash to all enterprises and organizations for economic needs—no more than 20,000 rubles [R]. Bank credits in cash are banned. It has been forbidden to export more than R500,000 outside Kazakhstan to the ruble zone states and over R100,000 to the other former Soviet republics which are using national currencies.

The shortage of cash has become a real calamity for Kazakhstan: The majority of enterprises and organizations have been unable to pay their employees' wages for two to three months. The situation is aggravated by the shortage of funds in the accounts of many enterprises—mainly through the fault of debtor-customers from two states. The situation is particularly grave with regard to the debts of Russian enterprises, for which the Russian Government refuses to take responsibility and which it does not include in the settlement of mutual state accounts. The Kazakhstan Government, on the contrary, recognizes its enterprises' debts, mainly formed as a result of the fact that Russia has narrowed all foreign payments with ruble zone states down to the unified correspondent's accounts of the Central Bank of Russia and the National Bank of Kazakhstan. A paradoxical situation is formed whereby, itself a major creditor of Russian enterprises, Kazakhstan has been obliged to assume responsibility for Russia's multibillion debt and is thus deprived of the possibility of getting technical credits for that same money [na tu zhe emissiyu].

The Kazakhstan president has issued a decree about putting in order the Kazakh enterprises' and organizations' accounting with partners from other ruble zone states. All accounts of enterprises and organizations in these states' banks outside Kazakhstan territory are subject to closure and the money is to be transferred to the correspondent's accounts of Kazakhstan banks in the ruble zone states.

Now, in connection with the lack of funds in the correspondent's accounts of Kazakhstan, in the Central Bank of Russia, and in the banks of a number of other states and because the question of Russia's state credit to Kazakhstan is still not being resolved, the accounting of Kazakh enterprises and organizations with their partners from "nearby foreign parts" has been suspended. In the future accounting will probably only be through Kazakhstan's unified correspondent's account and within the limits of the funds allocated to the Kazakhstan Government. Only expenses for state needs will be paid—in accordance with existing interstate trade and economic agreements. All other payments will be through the correspondent's accounts of commercial banks which have established direct relations with banks outside the republic. The right to use a correspondent's account to pay for output imported into the republic and the right to export output from the republic will be granted only to enterprises on a special list, which will be compiled by the Kazakhstan Government and Ministry of the Economy. The National Bank will not accept for payment the payment documents of other enterprises.

Steps have also been taken which can be called confiscatory. By a special decree of President N. Nazarbayev a number of joint stock-commercial banks (the Turabank, Kredobank, Alembank, Kazagroprombank, and Kazsberbank) have been transformed into joint-stock banks with the transfer of the state block of shares to the government in the form of the State Committee for the Administration of State Property. To all appearances dividends received by the former joint-stock-commercial and cooperative banks from the use of budget funds will be confiscated for the budget revenue. All joint-stock, commercial, and cooperative banks in Kazakhstan are subject to re-registration.

Kyrgyzstan

Former Official's Departure for Russia Causes 'Great Stir'

LD1607162293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0838 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 16 Jul—Gherman Kuznetsov, former first deputy prime minister of the Kyrgyzstan Government, has left the republic and has gone to Russia. He stated today in the newspaper SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA [WORD OF KYRGYZSTAN] that "he felt out of place", emphasizing that the government has stopped heeding his words in recent times, and some important decisions have been made behind his back.

German Kuznetsov's departure for Russia has created a great stir. It is thought in the corridors of power that it may reinforce migratory sentiments among Russian-speakers. Over the past four years, some 170,000 people have left Kyrgyzstan, of whom 145,000 were Russian.

Tajikistan

Abdullodzhanov Interviewed on Border Situation

LD1807164493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1120 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov by moderator Andrey Skryabin, Lyudmila Telen of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, and Yuliy Semenov of Mayak Radio, in Moscow on 18 July; from the Live Dialogue program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Skryabin] I would like to remind viewers that we have a multi-line telephone, and you can see the number now on your screens: 095 217 45 63. You can call that number and put your questions to Mr. Abdullodzhanov. If you would permit me, Abdumalik, I will begin straight away with a question that is worrying many of our viewers. We have already received a number of calls, notably from Moscow, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. The essence of the question is as follows: The latest events on the border: would you mind telling us in more detail about this, if you can?

[Abdullodzhanov] Good afternoon esteemed viewers, good afternoon esteemed correspondents. True, things aren't equal for us: there's one of me and three of you.

[Skryabin] For us it's easier.

[Abdullodzhanov] And for me more difficult. Nevertheless, I will try to answer your questions. First of all: esteemed viewers, you all know that since the present government came to power last December, violations on the Afghan-Tajik border have become a common phenomenon. Well, during that period, borders have been violated in various ways more than 120 times, mostly to convey arms and narcotics. Naturally, there have been shootings and casualties. You also know from the results of all the sittings held by the CIS member countries to date that this question has been examined constantly. Of course, this latest violation of the border is outrageous. The enemy had the sheer insolence to attack a Russian border detachment. They killed virtually everyone. After that they attacked the nearest village and just about cut off all the inhabitants of the village. They took the young women back with them into Afghanistan as hostages and killed all the men, old people, and children.

The government of Tajikistan, the parliament and the people of Tajikistan, made an appeal to Russia, and other countries, and the UN. We are very grateful to Russia, first of all to Boris Nikolayevich and the parliament of Russia, and to the government of Russia, which responded immediately to our appeal. The day before yesterday, a group led by [Russian Federation Defense Minister] Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev and including experts, generals and the commander-in-chief came to Tajikistan. I also joined them. We travelled to the scene of events and examined everything, and were convinced of the cruelty with which it had all been carried out, and that for any ordinary person it is intolerable that living people, children, women and old people should be cut off in this way.

Therefore I think—you are aware of the statement by Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev—all of us are grateful to him for immediately coming to Tajikistan—under his and other statements and under the collective security treaty of the CIS member-countries, Russia has now got involved and the Tajik-Afghan border will be strengthened.

[Semenov] By the way, you have mentioned questions from the TV viewers—I also have a question. Mikheyev from Zelenograd: Could you please say how long Russian soldiers will continue to die on the Tajik border?

[Abdullodzhanov] Dear Comrade Mikheyev! We are also upset by this. We are also upset. But what can one do? Perhaps this is the fate of not only the Tajik and Russian peoples—not only Russian border guards, Russian lads, are dying there. Tajiks, Uzbeks, Ukrainians, and [soldiers of] other nationalities who are serving there are also dying there. If it had depended on us—but you cannot explain this to your enemy.

[Semenov] Perhaps you can feel a concealed meaning in this question. I can feel it. Perhaps my question would sound harsh, but what do you think—and many of my friends and acquaintances are talking about it—what would be the Americans' reaction if somebody had invaded their territory or destroyed their outpost?

[Abdullodzhanov] You know how the Americans would react—for example, when two or three of their soldiers were [word indistinct] in Lebanon a few years ago they immediately involved all their armada against this country to release their soldiers and officers and retaliate for them. I think under the circumstances Russia also....

[Semenov] Prime Minister, you hold an official post, and it's difficult for you to depart from cautious phraseology, but people believe that we are hindered by the Afghan syndrome. And in this situation perhaps we have to resolve to overcome the syndrome and carry out a pre-emptive or retaliatory strike. After all, our missiles are no less accurate than American ones.

[Abdullodzhanov] Well, I think one can't rule that out either.

[Semenov] I apologize for having gone slightly outside the question framework.

[Telen] I have some doubts as to what my colleague is saying. First of all, not to mention the doubts of moral nature since in any missile attack the civilian population of Afghanistan will suffer. But here we have a purely military problem. The point is that the Afghan syndrome is not only a syndrome but an experience as well. And the Afghan experience tells us that problems of this kind unfortunately cannot be resolved by military means. Therefore, my question to you is as follows: the problem of borders is first and foremost the problem of refugees on the Afghan territory. Recently rumors have appeared that you personally are prepared to hold talks with the opposition and that you are even thinking of visiting refugee camps on the Afghan side. Could you please confirm this and can you see a political solution to the problem, a political solution to the opposition problem on the Afghan territory?

[Skryabin] I apologize but there is another question. Nabiyev from the Crimea: On 27 July last year we lost our brother in Tajikistan. What moves are being taken by the new government in the republic so that citizens who have found themselves in Afghanistan can return home. It seems to be within the same range of questions.

[Semenov] Moreover, I agree with Lyudmila [Telen] in this respect, since indeed refugees are a kind of protection to these aggressive groups, they are their breeding-ground.

[Abdullodzhanov] Lyudmila Telen you said recently—no, from the moment the present government came into power we set up several groups and commissions from members of government, parliament and ordinary people and sent them there to hold talks with the authorities there who would not hinder our refugees from returning home.

Admittedly, representatives from UN, the Red Cross, and other international organizations also took part in this. The work was being done and is still being done; it will continue. To date more than 20,000 refugees have returned. We are now planning for the remaining refugees to return. I think all our refugees will return before the end of summer or by the middle of autumn. Fanatics are a different question. They do not need the refugees. They simply need the refugees to use them as a shield. This is first. Second, they disguise as refugees in order to receive international humanitarian aid and enrich themselves. These fanatics have machine guns and automatic weapons at present. Moreover, they have acquired these from our bandits who have gone there. These are their tools—they use them to live and to make profit. They are not thinking about human values or people's lives.

[Semenov] There is yet another aspect of the refugees problem—the Russian refugees who left Tajikistan when the civil war intensified. What can you say to them now—I think many of them are among the TV viewers of our program?

[Abdullodzhanov] Replying to your question, I would like to address the whole Russian-speaking population and the people who have left Tajikistan and ask them to return. The situation inside Tajikistan is practically under control. It is stabilizing. Admittedly, there are problems, there is no hiding it, since only just over seven months have passed from the moment the present government came into office. Therefore, the present government is doing everything in its power so that, first, these people can return and, second, that, if not luxurious, but minimum conditions for normal life and work be created for them. Moreover, the government has approached parliament with a proposal that conditions should be created for the Russian-speaking population. In other words, at present there is a law in our republic which says that the Russian language is a language of inter-ethnic communication. And we made a proposal that the Russian language should be the second state language. I think parliament will reach its own conclusions and agree to it. I also think it will adopt the law on national minorities apart from the Russian-speaking population. I think favorable conditions will be created so that these specialists, these people, can return to Tajikistan and help to restore the republic's national economy.

[Skryabin] Thank you. Now I think we have an answer to many of the questions we have received. For example, Shalimov, a refugee from Dushanbe, asks: please tell us what measures are being taken by the government to return refugees, and what will be done. Bakmayeva, a refugee, says: since December I have been living in Kaliningrad oblast with my family. I fled during the war and left a privatized flat, with all its belongings: how will I be able to get it back? Maya Petrovna Toporkova is also a refugee, who left in 1991. If we go back to Dushanbe, will we be given accommodation of any kind there? Well, as for the refugees theme, I think we have already.... [comments tail off]

[Telen] Yes, Andrey, I have one more question. We have talked about refugees on the border with Afghanistan, and we have talked about the forces making use of those refugees. But we are not talking only about the purely criminal elements, the bandits as you say, but also the political opponents of the present authorities in Tajikistan, and also simply the refugees who because of their situation serve as a breeding-ground for the formation of these associations. So there is the question of a political amnesty for the participants of the war which took place on the territory of Tajikistan. You recall that the Khudzhand session declared a political amnesty for all, but as far as is known this decision was not fully implemented. Do you not think that a political amnesty for opponents of the present authorities in Tajikistan would to some extent lessen this problem, including the problem of the return of refugees?

[Abdullodzhanov] First, I do not agree with you that the law on a political amnesty which was adopted after the Khudzhand session is not being implemented. It is being implemented; furthermore, we have adopted a new one. It was implemented according to schedule, and we have adopted a new one. You know, Lyudmila, all those who are refugees, whether for political or other motives, and all those who are not guilty, they are all returning and working peacefully. Those who are guilty and have steeped their hands in blood, of course they are not returning of their own accord. No one has driven them out of the republic.

[Telen] But they were forced out during the war?

[Abdullodzhanov] Not at all, I don't agree. I am a witness there. I work in Dushanbe and I have been there all the time, previously, last year, the year before last, in the coalition governments, and now in the present one. No one drove them out. They fled of their own accord. Why? Because they are guilty. And those who were not guilty but were in other towns and republics have now come back, and are working.

[Semenov] You know, Andrey, there is one more aspect of normalizing the situation that could bring back many refugees. It is the problem of disarming armed groups. In my view, previously you could have had as a symbol of Tajikistan a hoe for working with cotton; well, now I think there are more submachine guns and rifles than hoes on the territory of Tajikistan. How successfully are you managing to carry out the disarmament process?

[Abdullodzhanov] The process of disarmament is under way but it proceeds at a slower rate than we would have liked it to. One always wants more than one already has. To date, we have already retrieved over 6,400 various fire-arms and 18 units of armored equipment. These are the figures. There are still some groups in existence. I am being honest and I am not saying that things are all right there. Please understand one thing: there was practically a civil war, a revolution took place, in practice. Of course, it is difficult to stabilize things in a short period of time using only one's own forces. Thank you to Russia and to Uzbekistan. They are helping us as much as they can, Russia in particular, I would like to stress. This process has slowed down after the situation on the border became tense. We had to use the Interior Ministry forces and the forces of the National Security Committee to protect the border and as a result, had to relax the disarmament inside the country. I think that we will continue this process.

[Skryabin] Thank you. Abdumalik, we have touched upon the topic of military aid and the situation on the border. Some belated questions have been just passed on to us. For example, Aleksandr Ivanovich Ivanov asks if military assistance is required from the Russian leaders and to what extent? A kind of a Press Express question to you.

[Abdullodzhanov] Shall I answer now?

[Skryabin] Yes, of course.

[Abdullodzhanov] As you know we have no armed forces of our own in all our republics, the same refers to Tajikistan, in particular. We had no armed forces of our own. Without Russia's help and the help of the CIS countries we, of course, cannot get back on our own feet. It is true though that some CIS countries promised to sign the declaration, adopted it, signed it bit apart from the Russian and Tajikistani ...

[Semenov, interrupting] ...but many of them do not observe it. Thank you to Russia once again for getting involved and helping us. Of course we'd like to train our own personnel more, so that Russian boys don't have to die on our territory. But at any rate as far as armaments and training of personnel are concerned, we definitely need help from Russia. As for how much, we shall see as we go along.

[Skryabin] The following question was asked from Svetlogorsk by Anatoliy Kurkov: is it true that Belarus supplies fire-arms to Tajikistan and on the basis of what?

[Abdullodzhanov] This question is unnecessary. Belarus is a member of a collective treaty, so there is nothing strange here, even if they decide to supply...

[Telen, interrupting] I think that Belarus is not a member of the collective security treaty, there is some kind of contradiction there.

[Semenov] Belarus said it will never send its contingents to Tajikistan. You were absolutely right about other CIS states which signed the document ...

[Abdullodzhanov] With regard to sending personnel he does not agree, as for arms supplies.

[Skryabin] And now, Abdul Abdumaliyev of Makhachkala asks: The Soviet Union helped Afghanistan, and now that is regarded as a mistake. Won't the fact that the CIS is now helping Tajikistan likewise be seen as a mistake in the future?

[Abdullodzhanov] You know, we have different weight categories here, and there are different aspects. First, we are not attacking Afghanistan—they are attacking us. We are defending our territory and our borders. Accordingly, everybody should of course join in and help us under the terms of the collective security treaty.

[Skryabin] We have discussed this set of questions concerning the border, the army and refugees. We—and you—have also touched on questions relating to the opposition, an amnesty, and so on. But let us return to this subject. The question is this: what system of relations do you have with the opposition today?

[Abdullodzhanov] Relations? With what opposition? With whom? That's the question which I should like to ask. You see, in the civilized world, in any state system, you have a multi-party set-up or pluralism of opinions. So, for goodness' sake, if these people act in a civilized manner and pursue their argument with us as political opponents should, we shall be willing to sit down with them. But if they steep their arms in blood up to their elbows and engage in plunder, killing, and the destruction of the nation, how can we possibly regard them as a political opposition or as political organizations?

[Telen] In that case, may I ask one more question to clarify the matter? You have mentioned—maybe the viewers don't know it—that you were chairman of the coalition government, the very government that was set up with the opposition.

[Abdullodzhanov] At the end of its term, for one and a half to two months.

[Telen] So, what did you gain from your experience of work in the coalition government, and what sort of experience in cooperating with the opposition did it give you? After all, it was experience in cooperating with the opposition.

[Abdullodzhanov] You see, it is hard to say whether I gained anything from it. Those people, when in government, were supposed to be engaged in restoring the economy and feeding the people. But those people in the coalition government did not do that. They were busy doing something completely different: trying to seize total power as quickly as possible by any means, including physical destruction. So it is hard to say that I gained any kind of experience from that.

[Semenov] You know, there is another aspect to this problem: the access to power for the various regions of Tajikistan. Are all the republic's regions now represented in the central authorities?

[Abdullodzhanov] Instead of answering that question verbally, I should like to invite you to come and visit us and see for yourself. I have deputies from almost all the regions, and Supreme Soviet chairman Imamali Rahmonov has deputies from the Pamirs and other regions. In effect, as a percentage, in proportional terms, we have taken more government members from the minority regions than even from such large regions as Leninabad oblast.

[Semenov] But are they working constructively with you? Are they helping you to feed the people, as you put it?

[Abdullodzhanov] You know, we are working as a team. If you want to say that there are any differences in our government or Supreme Soviet, I haven't noticed them, at any rate. What I have noticed is that what we have managed to do, we have achieved in a short time.

[Telen] Allow me to just clarify something. The regime does not have any opposition in the Supreme Soviet, is that right?

[Abdullodzhanov] Why? A representative of the Pamir is the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, at least this is what I understood by your question about the country's opposition.

[Telen] No, no. This is a different aspect. I said that the opposition exists as one which is irreconcilable with whom nothing can be agreed. I was interested in the question: is there an opposition with whom you can agree, with whom you can have a dialogue?

[Abdullodzhanov] Of course: don't you see that 230 members of the parliament and around 40 members of the government can never entirely be on the same side and think exactly the same. We have different opinions, directions and sometimes arguments get very heated.

[Telen] As far as I know there is one party in Tajikistan—the communist party. There is no opposition party in the parliament.

[Abdullodzhanov] We have not stopped any parties. But these political parties have nothing to do with the government and the Supreme Soviet. They do their own work. They have their representatives. There have been disagreements but they have never reached the stage when firearms were used. But I say that they exist in any civilized world but they don't reach the same proportions which they reached last year in Tajikistan.

[Skryabin] Thank you Abdumalik. I have a suggestion—let's go on to questions to do with the economy since we could not avoid questions which you have been asked—they now concern you and us and our television viewers. In connection with the economic problems which we would like to discuss with you, one of the most important and main problems today is the situation which has arisen following the visit by Central Asian states and Kazakhstan to Istanbul at the beginning of July which representatives from your state also attended and where agreements were concluded. What is your assessment of this economic agreement which was signed in Istanbul, what do you think of it and of your participation in this? And correspondingly, and at the same time, what do you think of the agreement—the economic agreement concluded—still to be concluded—which has been declared between Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia?

[Abdullodzhanov] Why? They have already been signed.

[Skryabin] What do you think of them?

[Abdullodzhanov] Well, you know, the news of this trilateral alliance is nothing new. We all knew about it and the chairmen of the councils of ministers and the prime ministers knew about it. There was talk about it way back in March and April. Evidently it coincided with the Istanbul agreement. But we have not signed the Istanbul agreement [words indistinct]. We are unequivocally a member of the CIS. We will unequivocally work with the CIS member countries and, in particular, with Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. Tajikistan has now prepared a statement to the effect that it will join as the fourth member the economic alliance signed by Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

[Telen] Has the question been discussed with them yet?

[Abdullodzhanov] In general, yes, in practical terms, yes.

[Skryabin] And what about the position of the Supreme Soviet of your Republic?

[Abdullodzhanov] It supports us.

[passage omitted: Telen question why Tajikistan has not signed the Istanbul agreement]

[Abdullodzhanov] The Istanbul agreement contains several things which we have not found to our liking, in particular concerning the single customs regulations and visa-free traffic. Then there was a statement against Armenia, which is a member of the CIS, and we are a member too. These are the considerations which prompted us not to support or to sign the Istanbul documents.

[passage omitted: Telen question on whether Istanbul agreements are incompatible with the membership of CIS economic alliance]

[Abdullodzhanov] In general, I do not think that these are incompatible, provided, of course, that none of these economic alliances are political in nature. Usually, various political games are played under the guise of economic alliances.

[Skryabin] Won't the signing of the Istanbul agreement complicate the relations between Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova on the one hand and the Central Asian republics on the other hand?

[Abdullodzhanov] I can only speak for my Republic. We are ready already—we have discussed this and we will sign this alliance with Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. I think that leaders of the other states ought to give you answers concerning their states.

[Telen] Won't this complicate your relations with Uzbekistan, or Kazakhstan, which have signed the Istanbul agreements?

[Abdullodzhanov] The leaders of these countries should show political common sense and wisdom here. This is because we are not encroaching on the interests of these republics—on the contrary, we regard these republics with respect, especially Uzbekistan. They are our closest neighbor, headed by its leader Islam Karimov, who constantly helps us. Therefore, they ought to understand that we are not signing against them.

We have always had good relations with Uzbekistan and this will—and should—remain the case. This is because our peoples have always lived together. [passage omitted]

[Abdullodzhanov] A law protecting businessmen to some extent from criminal liability is needed. I mean those honest businessmen who work honestly and earn honestly, bringing benefits to themselves and the state alike. The development and support of private enterprise, businessmen, especially small and medium sized business, especially those businessmen who are active in the sphere of material production is currently one of the Government's main, priority programs. This, of course, affects those who are intermediaries to a lesser extent.

[Skryabin] I believe you have even provided for tax relief for them?

[Abdullodzhanov] Not just preferential tax rates—the Government has now decided with regard to the enterprise development program to give a minimum of approximately 50 percent of the ruble credits we receive and a minimum of 80 percent of hard currency credits to private businessmen and entrepreneurs active in the sphere of material production. They are already benefitting from preferential tax rates, the ones who will continue to dispose of their profits not to enrich themselves, but to develop their production capacities. [passage omitted]

[Semenov] Do you have real power? In my view, it is a problem shared by all CIS states.

[Abdullodzhanov] Well, all in all, you know, the situation as it is now gives us full grounds to say that these levers of power are getting stronger with every passing day. There are [word indistinct]. There is, of course, a group and we are searching for them in order to render them harmless. But, evidently, we cannot do everything all at once. Here we are dealing, in the main, with a temporary factor.

[Telen] Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask you to look into the future. We remember that following Nabiyev's departure there is no president in Tajikistan. What is your attitude toward the possibility of presidential elections in Tajikistan? Will there be elections of this kind, and if so, are you ready to put yourself forward as a candidate for the post of President? [laughter in studio]

[Abdullodzhanov] You want to know it all at once, don't you? Nevertheless, I can answer that probably in the next three to five years, we'll see later, it's difficult to predict any further, but in general it would not be suitable for us to introduce presidential government for the next three to five years. I can explain why very briefly. All the misfortunes that have fallen on the heads of our peoples in Tajikistan were all because of just one thing: there was a struggle for that chair, the chair of President. Everybody wanted to become a padishah. So they fought. They fought, and the poor people [pause] What difference does it make to the people whether it's a president in power or a government with a parliament, as long as the conditions are there to live and work properly and under favorable conditions. [passage omitted]

[Abdullodzhanov] Well, I think, it was, if you recall, sometime in April that moves towards creating a common economic zone within the CIS began to be made. The economic alliance signed by Russia, Ukraine and Belarus is the first confirmation of this. I think many countries will join this alliance. One of the most complex problems here is a unified banking system. All chairmen of councils of ministers and prime ministers are aware of it and we are also aware of it and we are working toward it. Of course, I would like to appeal to the esteemed Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin and the esteemed [Russian Central Bank chairman] Gerashchenko: let this process not be somehow suspended before the question is resolved. Let it begin to work. This is mainly because the economy of many republics is in practical terms tied up to some extent with Russia. For instance, 88 percent of our Tajik economy is tied up only with the economy of Russia. [passage omitted]

[Abdullodzhanov] Currently it has been signed; a draft is being prepared; a draft has been elaborated of an agreement between Russia and Tajikistan concerning the completion of the construction of Rogun GES. [passage omitted]

[Skryabin] A question from Tajikistan. Is it really the case that there are concentration camps in Tajikistan? How many of them are there?

[Abdullodzhanov] Can I ask a question? Whoever asked this question ... [Skryabin, interrupting: There is no signature] let this person come and show us where he has got such information from? [passage omitted]

Grachev Arrives in Dushanbe, Discusses Border Situation

LD1607122793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1144 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Dushanbe July 16 TASS—The recent attack by Afghan mojahedin and gunmen from the Tajik Islamic opposition on the Russian border post guarding the Tajik border with Afghanistan "will not pass with impunity", said Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on his arrival in Dushanbe on Friday.

The minister accompanied by Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of Russian frontier troops, told welcoming journalists that "adequate measures to support the legitimate Tajik Government will be taken" in compliance with directions of Boris Yeltsin, commander-in-chief and Russian president.

Grachev stressed that "the Russian side regards the attack on the 12th border post on the Tajik-Afghan border as a tragedy for Russia. This is a direct threat of interference in Russia's domestic affairs and an undeclared war waged by some militant groups against Russia".

The military delegation at the Dushanbe Airport was welcomed by Tajik Parliament Speaker Imamali Rakhmanov and other republican leaders.

Later in the day, Grachev will meet the Tajik leaders and officers of Russian troops deployed in Tajikistan. Provision is also made for his trip to the Tajik-Afghan border, directly to the area where the tragedy took place several days ago.

Vows 'Destruction' of 'Enemy'

LD1607152693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Statement by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in Dushanbe on 16 July; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I have received the full apporoval of our commander in chief, the president, on taking adequate and appropriate measures in order that this tragedy, and I consider it a national tragedy for Russia, should not be repeated. It seems that we have put up with insults and the humiliation of the Russian people in various regions of the states of the former Soviet Union for long enough. This is the beginning; and in so far as we consider that this is a tragedy, that this is in fact an undeclared war against Russia, my aim and my duty today and tomorrow will be to develop and initiate adequate measures to restrain [obuzdanie] the enemy and inflict such destruction on him that nobody will dare lift up their hand against the Russian people again.

Confers With Military Leaders

LD1607173993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1646 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Dushanbe, 16 Jul—Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who arrived in Tajikistan today, held a joint conference with representatives of the Armed Forces of Russia and Tajikistan and of Russian border troops, in which Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov and the republic's leaders also took part.

Before the opening of the conference its participants honored the memory of the recently killed border guards with a minute's silence. As he opened the conference, Pavel Grachev said that the events that occurred at the 12th frontier post were a national tragedy, first and foremost for Russia. In this connection the minister said that serious thought should be given to ensuring the security of the state border. "The barbarians who attempted to kill a Russian soldier must face severe punishment," Pavel Grachev said.

In the course of the conference, the defense minister and the chairman of the Committee for State Security of Tajikistan, as well as the commander of the group of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan and the former commander of the 201st Division, delivered their reports. The speakers said that the military-political situation in the republic is extremely complicated, especially on the Tajik-Afghan border. The opposition and Afghan irregulars from the border areas are observed as concentrating their forces and military equipment.

Concluding the conference, Pavel Grachev said these are all signs that the opposition, supported by Afghan irregulars, is preparing a large-scale action on the entire territory of Tajikistan. In this connection Russia's defense minister instructed the military command to draw up by the following morning a set of relevant suggestions on reinforcing the group of the Russian border troops and on providing assistance for Tajikistan's Ministry of Defense. Strengthening border protection is regarded as an urgent task. Measures to this effect will be approved at tomorrow's meeting.

The minister expressed his regret that the complexity of the situation in Tajikistan is being underestimated by the leaders of the neighboring CIS states. He said that the events that just took place demonstrate the necessity of taking concerted steps within the framework of the CIS in order to ensure security on the borders.

Promises 'Appropriate Measures'

LD1707104793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The talks that started on 16 July between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and the leaders of the Republic of Tajikistan continued today in Dushanbe.

Grachev told journalists yesterday that he had come to Dushanbe to assess the situation and to agree on joint action with the leadership of Tajikistan. In accordance with an instruction from the supreme commander in chief, the Russian president, he said appropriate measures will be taken to support the legitimate Government of Tajikistan and so that the bandits who committed the appalling provocation on the Tajik-Afghan border are fully punished.

As is known, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has instructed that a plan be drawn up to prevent further provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border and attacks on the Russian border guards defending it. The Russian Supreme Soviet supported him in this.

Task Force To Coordinate Joint Actions

LD1707131593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe July 17 TASS—A working visit of Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and a group of senior officers from the Russian general staff to Tajikistan is coming to a close.

General Grachev had a tete-a-tete conversation today with Chairman of the Tajik Parliament Imamali Rakhmanov.

A working conference was held in Dushanbe on Saturday, which was attended by Tajik leaders, representatives of the Defence Ministry and other power ministries of the republic, as well as by a Russian military delegation led by Pavel Grachev. The conference outlined joint actions of the two countries, aimed at strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border within the framework of the collective security treaty.

The conference was held behind closed doors, but ITAR-TASS learned that a task group was set up for coordinating joint actions, which will be made up of representatives of the defence ministries of Russia and Tajikistan and will be headed by Russian Army General Aleksandr Sokolov. Participants in the conference stated once again that the leaders of both Russia and Tajikistan would take most resolute measures for preventing armed provocations on the Tajik- Afghan border. The Russian side expressed readiness to render military assistance to the Tajik national armed forces and to take part in the training of officers for the Tajik Army at Russian military schools.

Pavel Grachev is leaving for Moscow this evening.

Military Leaders Remark on Security Needs

LD1707143593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1302 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Dushanbe, 17 Jul—Tajik Defense Minister Aleksandr Shishlyannikov is sure that the two-day visit to the republic by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and other military leaders will serve to strengthen Tajikistan's security.

Speaking today at a meeting with journalists, he criticized the stance of individual CIS leaders who have caused the proposals of the CIS unified armed forces for deploying peacekeeping forces from the Commonwealth states in the republic to remain unimplemented. Now, following Pavel Grachev's arrival, the problem of deploying peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan no longer arises, according to the Tajikistani minister. Ensuring Tajikistan's security will be accomplished on the basis of bilateral accords with Russia.

Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Russian Federation's land forces and a member of the military delegation, who also addressed the journalists, added that the deployment in Tajikistan of an additional contingent of troops from the Russian Federation is not envisaged. It is planned to reinforce the 201st Motorized Infantry Division that is stationed in Tajikistan, making it "able to provide assistance with accomplishing the tasks confronting Russian border guards in Tajikistan."

Russian Deputies View Border Situation

LD1707210593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By correspondent Alisher Khodzhayev, including interview with Russian People's Deputy Fedor Shelayev-Kovedyayev by an unidentified correspondent; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] A delegation of Russian parliamentarians has completed its visit to the Tajik-Afghan border and is to return to Moscow today. You are just about to see a video report by our correspondent. [passage omitted]

[Khodzhayev] Following the tragic events on the Tajik-Afghan border, a briefing for local and foreign journalists was held in Dushanbe today by Mukhammad Ubaydullayev, deputy chairman of the republican Council of Ministers, and Colonel-General Viktor Barykin, deputy Chief of Staff of the Russian Armed Forces.

Ubaydullayev assured correspondents that the situation in the republic is stable again and that demo-Islamism and fundamentalism have no real basis in the republic. Viktor Barykin informed correspondents about a new Russo-Tajik coordinating body. Today is the last day of the Russian deputies' stay in Tajikistan.

[Correspondent] You have seen everything with your own eyes, so to speak. What are you going to tell your colleagues in the parliament?

[Shelov-Kovedyayev] I think that this attack was a demonstration, so to speak, of the capabilities and potential of those who carried it out. The operation was thoroughly prepared because the border post's most vital facilities were disabled during the first hours of fighting, their ammunition depot was destroyed along with a local power station, and a communications center. Our delegation and, of course, top Tajik officials together with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and commanders in chief of armed forces spent the entire day working hard to draw up specific measures aimed at reinforcing both the 201st Division and supporting the border troops, namely the entire complex of measures to improve border protection.

Rakhmanov Sends Condolence Message to Yeltsin

LD1607201393 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, has sent a telegram addressed to Boris Yeltsin and leaders of the Russian Federation, stating:

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, please accept my sincere condolences on the death of the Russian border guards who were killed on 13 July on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border as a result of attempts to violate the border by a large number of armed extremists. The Russian citizens, along with their Tajik and Uzbek brethren, heroically met their death and defended our common border at the cost of their lives. The thankful people of Tajik will never forget their names.

Rakhmanov Appeals to UN on Border Attacks

LD1707121693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe July 17 TASS—Chairman of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmanov has appealed to U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali on Saturday, asking "to use U.N. mechanisms, including the Security Council, to end the bloody invasion of militants in Tajikistan from the Afghan territory."

The appeal was made following the recent invasion into Tajikistan by Afghan mojahideens and militants of the Tajik opposition undergoing training in Afghanistan. The Tajik parliament chairman drew attention of the U.N. secretary general to the expanding military operations launched from the Afghan territory.

The appeal says that recently, some sections of the Tajik-Afghan border have been turned into fire lines. The attacks are getting increasingly dangerous and hostile since the general command and arms supplies in the last incident of the violation of the border, which took place on July 13, were exercised by the commander of the 55th Afghan infantry regiment.

"Despite the fact that during official meetings with Afghan leaders we find understanding and are shown concern about our problems, this intrusion is being escalated, which is seen from current developments. This creates prerequisites for fueling the hotbed of tension, worsening the relations between the two countries and undermining political stability emerging in Tajikistan," the appeal said.

Tajik-Afghan Situation Continues To Be 'Complicated'

LD1707132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Dushanbe July 17 TASS—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border near the 12th frontier post of the Moscow frontier guard detachment continues to be extremely complicated. In the opinion of Yevgeniy Bunkov, an officer, who is at present the acting commander of the frontier post's defence group, one cannot rule out a possibility of more armed provocations on that section of the frontier. The situation at other sections defended by the Moscow frontier guard detachment also continues to be complicated.

Situation 'Extremely Anxious'

LD1807073593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0731 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe July 18 TASS—The headquarters of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan denied Saturday's reports by some news media that two Russian servicemen were killed in the area of border pickets 11 and 12 of the Tajik-Afghan border section.

Not a single Russian serviceman was killed at the border following the tragic events of July 13, a spokesman at the headquarters told ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

According to an estimate made by the command of Russian border troops, the operational situation on that section of the Tajik-Afghan border remains extremely anxious. Firing on border pickets 11 and 12 from the direction of the contiguous state continued in recent days. The situation there was relatively calm last night.

The command of the border troops in Russia, in cooperation with the government forces of Tajikistan, have begun to take additional operational measures to stop any armed provocations both at the border section and along the entire Tajik-Afghan border.

Border Raids Thwarted

LD1907104393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By KHOVAR News Agency correspondent Igor Akhmedov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe July 19 TASS—The air force of frontier troops was used to eliminate two groups of Islamic militants in the Shuroabad section of the Tajik-Afghan border, according to the Command of the Russian Frontier Troops in Tajikistan.

It added that Russian Frontier Troops in the region thwarted several attempts of Tajik militants to penetrate into the country from Afghanistan over the last two days.

The Command also said that armed units of Tajik opposition and Afghan Mojahedin are arriving from the province of Badakhshan, controlled by General Abdul Basir, to the border with Tajikistan.

Opposition Forces Increasing Activity Against Government

LD1807132893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe July 18 TASS—The recent large-scale provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border obviously served as an impetus to an increased activity for internal opposition forces.

Thus, an opposition group with more than 130 members managed to penetrate the area of Semiganch village of Kofirnikhon District but was stopped by government troops. As a results of armed clashes, about 40 militants, among them one citizen of Afghanistan, were killed and the rest managed to escape deep into Ramit Gorge. Five servicemen of government forces were killed. There are wounded as well.

At present, according to Khakimo Kurbonov, deputy head of the press centre of the Tajikistan Interior Ministry, the group has been fully blockaded in the gorge and replies negatively to all calls to down arms, hoping, apparently, for outside help.

Pamir groups that are in opposition to Dushanbe authorities have stepped up their activity. A meeting of the so-called representatives of the Pamiers Young People took place in Horog, the administrative centre of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region. Those present demanded the resignation of the local leadership, a reliable source in Khorog told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

In the opinion of participants in the meeting, the local authorities are unable to resolve the acute socioeconomic problems of the region. Political slogans were voiced as well, including demands to elevate the region's status to that of an autonomous republic.

'Fierce Fighting' Reported in Khorog

LD1807172593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondents have been told at the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet that fierce fighting broke out this morning in the region of Khorog. This time it did not concern Russian border troops. It is government troops of Tajikistan and armed opposition units that are fighting. Large-caliber firearms and artillery are being used in the fighting. There are about 2,000 guerrillas fighting on the opposition side. Imamali Rahmanov stated today that the government no longer intends to take local measures; large forces have already been dispatched to the area of the fighting to reinforce the government troops. Russian border troops are still not interfering in the fighting, and relative calm is being maintained at the frontier posts.

Rally in Badakhshan Protests Local Authorities' Inaction

MK1707111093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Oleg Panfilov report: "Troubled Situation in Badakhshan Once Again"]

[Text] A meeting attended by 500 to 1000 people started on 15 July in the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Badakhshan (the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet still calls it the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast). The meeting continued on 16 July, the day a session of the republic's Supreme Soviet was called at the insistence of protesters in Khorog. Unlike the previous meeting on 26 June in defense of Tajik border guards, this meeting was organized by residents of Khorog and the republic's rayons vexed at both the Supreme Soviet's and the city executive committee's doing nothing for stabilization inside Badakhshan. Food is practically gone, there is no traffic on the roads linking Badakhshan with the "mainland," and harassment of Badakhshan immigrants continues in Dushanbe.

The main "butts" of protest were Supreme Soviet Chairman Garibsho Shabozov, and Executive Committee Chairman Manmur Kurbonaliyev. They were elected to these offices at the recent session that dismissed Akbarsho Iskandarov, the previous head of Badakhshan who is now acting president of Tajikistan, as well as the other leaders who were loyal to the opposition. This was in essence a pro-communist coup in Badakhshan that brought to power people needed by Dushanbe. Today, their inaction, and cool attitude to the terror in Dushanbe against Badakhshan immigrants have provoked a fresh wave of protest.

Badakhshan immigrants tried to take a neutral stance in the ongoing conflict of the opposition with Dushanbe authorities; the self-defense detachments they created never joined fighting on either side. This, however, does not seem to be to the liking of the Government of Tajikistan. Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet, must not have liked the attempts by head of government Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov to establish contacts with Badakhshan's unofficial leaders. At any rate, this will provide another occasion for Dushanbe to reflect on the republic's future because Badakhshan has a great geographical and strategic importance, and it is as big as nearly half the territory of Tajikistan.

Tajik Communist Party Statement on Border Incident

LD1607204893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Statement by the Central Committee Presidium of the Tajikistan Communist Party:

The attack by opposition groups and their Afghan supporters on the [words indistinct] of the border region of independent Tajikistan, that resulted in the deaths of the brave sons of Tajikistan and Russia and of innocent people, has angered the public of Tajikistan, Russian, and other CIS states.

These days rallies are being organized throughout the republic, that is in [word indistinct] villages, towns, and rayons and in labor collectives, condemning such a provocative action. The participants of the meetings are resolutely supporting the statement by the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan, the president and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

The Presidium of the Communist Party of Tajikistan too, on behalf of tens of thousands of communists and their supporters, has been angered by this bandit-like action.

Dear listeners, the full text of the statement will be published in the press.

Entry to Dushanbe 'By Special Permits'

LD1807084693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Beginning today, entry to Dushanbe will be allowed only by special permits and travel orders [komandirovochnoye udostovereniye].

Council of Ministers Adopts Resolution on Agriculture

LD1707002593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, having heard a report by Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, adopted a special resolution on the main directions of agricultural development in Tajikistan.

Among other things, the resolution says that in recent years more material damage has been done to the agro-industrial complex of the republic in comparison with other branches of the national economy. The volume of grain production, cotton, vegetables, meat, milk, and other products has fallen considerably compared to previous years.

Therefore, the Council of Ministers has adopted necessary measures in order to restore and develop the agro-industrial complex of the republic by the year 2000. The full text of the resolution will be published in the press.

Armenia

Border Attack Breaks 'Truce' on Karabakh Border

LD1607130793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—After massive shelling, subunits of the Azerbaijani Army attempted to attack the border between the Agdamskiy Rayon of Azerbaijan and Askeranskiy Rayon of Nagorno-Karabakh this morning, with the aim of capturing a height. This in fact broke a tacit truce established recently during the visit to the conflict zone by the Minsk CSCE group lead by its chairman, Mario Raffaelli.

Citing the headquarters of the defense army, the Nagorno-Karabakh information and press department told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that "the attackers suffered losses and retreated to their original positions."

Yerevan Updates Karabakh Fighting 15-16 Jul

NC1607153693 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The effects of the political and economic crisis in Azerbaijan have been strongly felt on the Karabakh frontline. The enemy does not want to end its provocative activities. The Armenian residential areas near the border have been fired on heavily from Azerbaijan's military positions in various areas, particularly from Agdamskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons. Several peaceful people have been harmed in the firing. Serious damage was inflicted on the NKR's agricultural establishments and industrial holding companies during the past three days. Dozens of houses were razed to the ground in several areas.

As reported earlier, Azerbaijan's leaders maintain the military operations to divert the people's attention from the economic and political crisis in the republic, despite peaceful and innocent Azerbaijani citizens being killed or wounded or forced to leave their homes and become refugees because of the retaliatory attacks. This indicates that political ambitions have priority over the people's security in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's policy has remained unchanged, despite a new government coming to power there. Preference is given to the use of force in that republic, but the painful outcome of that approach is [words indistinct].

According to the NKR self-defense headquarters, Askeranskiy Rayon's eastern border areas and Martuninskiy Rayon's northern border areas were fired on by the Azerbaijani positions in Agdamskiy Rayon with artillery and rocket launchers at 1600 yesterday afternoon. Azerbaijan's military forces assembled and attacked that rayon at 1800. Their attack was preceded by a new wave of shelling. The NKR Self-Defense Forces took appropriate measures and obstructed the advancing units. They forced them to retreat to their former positions. Azerbaijan lost many men and military vehicles.

Have the commanders who send their young men to die ever considered that they will not be given an opportunity to live a second time? Their relatives, sisters, and mothers are anxiously awaiting their return. No one needs this unjust war. Recall the proverb: Anyone who tries to destroy a home will have his home destroyed. Why does Azerbaijan maintain its uninterrupted raids and attacks? Why are the raids and attacks repeated on the battlefronts here and elsewhere along the border? The Armenian forces have no alternative. They must defend their homes and territories. They must defend themselves against Azerbaijan's aggression, which aims to prevent them from living like human beings. Azerbaijan's young men have become the victims of the aggressive war, which cannot be justified.

Sporadic exchanges of fire have taken place elsewhere on the frontline. The operative situation has not changed.

According to the Armenian Defense Ministry press center, the situation along the entire border between Armenia and Azerbaijan was relatively peaceful last night and this morning.

Armenian Village in Nagorno-Karabakh Under Attack

LD1707124793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1232 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ARMEN-PRESS-TASS]

[Text] Yerevan July 17 TASS—On Friday [16 July] night, the Armenian village of Kornidzor of the Gorisk region came under artillery fire opened from the Kubatlin region of Azerbaijan, ARMENPRESS reported today, quoting the Armenian Defence Ministry.

According to reports received by the ARMENPRESS in the headquarters of the Karabakh Defence Forces, it was relatively quiet in other areas of hostilities since Friday.

No Alternative Seen to CSCE Solution for Karabakh

LD1607175293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 16 TASS—There is no alternative to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian Interior Minister Vanik Siradegyan said.

Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan on Friday [16 July], Siradegyan spoke in support of the initiative launched by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to find a political solution to the

Karabakh problem. He brushed away as unreal any possibility of seizing Baku by Armenia and capturing Yerevan by Azerbaijani troops.

Referendum Proposal for Alliance With Russia Rejected

LD1707123993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 17 TASS—The Central Armenian Commission for referendum has rejected a proposal on holding a plebiscite in Armenia on the establishment of an economic and defence alliance with Russia on a confederative basis. The decision to this effect was unanimously adopted at the session of the commission on Friday [16 July].

The plebiscite was suggested by an initiative group, numbering 35, consisting predominantly of leaders and activists of the Armenian Communist Party. They suggested putting to the vote the question "do you agree that Russia and Armenia form an alliance on a confederative basis with the single economic and defence systems?"

The central commission for the referendum, led by chairman of the Armenian parliament Babken Ararktsyan, rejected the proposal, saying that the question does not conform to Armenia's legislature. In particular, the commission referred to an article of the Armenian law on referendum, banning the registration of applications if a question suggested to be put to the referendum violates political, economic and military sovereignty of Armenia and runs contrary to international treaties signed by Armenia.

Secretary of the Armenian Communist Party, Sergey Badalyan, declared that the party reserves the right to use all possible means to ensure that the population can express its will on Armenia's joining all initiatives aimed at the restoration of close political, economic and military ties on a contractual basis with CIS countries and, primarily, with Russia."

Badalyan believes that this is the way for the Armenian people to come out of the deep social and economic crisis. He reminded of the fact that the idea of holding the referendum was suggested at a rally of communists held in Yerevan three months ago.

Minister: 10,000 'Unregistered' Weapons in Yerevan

LD1607181893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 16 TASS—There are about 10,000 unregistered firearms in Yerevan whose population is about 1.7 million people, according to Armenian Interior Minister Vanik Siradegyan. Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan on Friday [16 July], Siradegyan said that part of the arms arrive from the war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, adding that arms supply routes remain practically uncontrollable.

A large number of weapons remain unregistered because of lack of control on the part of law enforcement bodies, while others are seized as trophies in battles. The minister believes it possible to confiscate the bulk of unregistered arms from the population within a year, if law enforcement bodies improve their work and step up activities in this direction. He admitted, however, that some weapons will end up in the hands of criminal gangs and Mafia-like structures.

Republic To Stay in Ruble Zone Despite Problems

PM1607160793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Armenia Tries To Remain in Ruble Zone"]

[Text] Yerevan—Only exceptional circumstances beyond its control could force Armenia to take the step of introducing its own currency.

This statement by Armenian Central Bank Leader Isaak Isaakyan once again confirms the republic's aspiration to remain in the ruble zone, even though there are growing problems in relations between the Armenian and Russian banking systems.

Armenia has now only received 30 billion rubles [R] in credit out of about R130 billion stipulated by agreement. The problem of cash is also causing great anxiety. It is noteworthy that the denominations supplied to Armenia are marked 1961-1991, when, as we know, Russia has begun to take this money out of circulation. The problem is further compounded by the fact that only 40 percent of money entering the state trade system is returned to Armenia's banks, and also by the lack of deposits being made to savings banks.

Azerbaijan

National Assembly Meets 16 Jul on Ganja Events

Ganja Garrison Official Cited

LD1607164693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 16 Jul—The assertions that the 709th Army Brigade, the attack on which by government troops on 4 June started the Ganja drama, refused to obey the republic's Defense Ministry, are not in line with what actually happened. This was officially stated today by Rovshan Yusifov, procurator of the Ganja garrison, who stressed that the garrison's procuracy is not in possession of a single fact or document confirming this.

The speech by the procurator opened today's morning session of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan at midday. It resumed discussion of the final report by the deputies' investigation commission into the known tragic events in Ganja which was made public yesterday.

Rovshan Yusifov stated that the 709th Army Brigade had been created following the order of the republic's Defense Ministry at the beginning of April this year "right after Armenian Troops had seized Azerbaijan's Kelbadzharskiy Rayon." "Thanks to its actions, the adversary was thrown back from the Myurovdag Ridge, and a number of strategic heights, dominating the republic's southwestern and western parts, have been recaptured. The defense department knew this well enough," the garrison prosecutor told deputies. He claimed that even during the attack on the military unit's location, one of its subunits continued to hold a defense position further away from Ganja. He believes all this gives one grounds to consider everything that happened as a "premeditated action aimed at destroying a battleworthy unit."

The prosecutor also stated that it had been testified that one of the main aims of the action was to "physically destroy Surat Guseynov." It was also established in the course of the investigation that, according to preliminary reports, the action had caused 22 million rubles worth of damage, he added.

Kamberov Refuses To Address Parliament

LD1607135793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Baku July 16 TASS—Despite numerous requests from Azerbaijani deputies, former Parliament Speaker Isa Kamberov, who is believed to have been involved in the Ganja events where at least 35 people were killed and 130 wounded, refused to address the parliament this morning, saying that the assembly hall had been turned into an investigation room.

Former Azerbaijani Interior Minister Abdullah Allakhverdiyev said in his report to the parliament that Kamberov, ex-prime minister Panakh Guseynov and former State Secretary Ali Kerimov had been put in charge of the operation to disarm and disband the rebellious 709th Brigade stationed in the city of Ganja.

Allakhverdiyev's evidence confirmed the conclusions of a special parliamentary commission which was set up to investigate the events. He also said that Guseynov and Kamberov ordered government troops which stormed the brigade outpost to bomb it. Fortunately, the order was not carried out.

Speaking about his own role in the events, Allakhverdiyev, like his colleague Fakhraddin Takhmazov who at the time held the post of security minister, tried to play it down, saying that he was only fulfilling orders from above.

Academician Imam Mustafayev, who headed the first commission set up in June to investigate the events, disagreed with the parliamentary commission's conclusions that Azerbaijani state leaders involved in the events bear only political responsibility. He believes they should face criminal charges as well.

Speaker Seen Pressuring Deputies

NC1607154993 Baku TURAN in English 1349 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 14 (TURAN)—Today Baku sitting of Milli Mejlis, on which deputies are discussing the reports of committee of inquiry on Ganja developments from June 4, has resumed.

Military procurator of Ganja garrison Rovshan Aliyev addressing the sitting, disproved the statements of committee of inquiry, that 709 Brigade had been insubordinate to Defense Ministry of the republic and had taken an active part in the battles in Kelbadzhar region. It should be pointed out, this statement contradicts the announcements of former Defense Minister Dadash Rizayev, that 709 Brigade had not participated in the actions and, practically, was out of Defense Ministry's control.

Ganja garrison procurator also stated, that guidance of the republic headed by the president, had made different attempts to eliminate Surat Guseynov physically, but all of them were failure.

Addressing the sitting former Minister of Internal Affairs Abdullah Allakhverdiyev stated, that former prime-minister Panakh Guseynov had guided the operation on disbanding 709 Brigade in Ganja from the building of MIA.

A. Allakhverdiyev's speech was repeatedly interrupted by Geydar Aliyev's sharp comments, who had exerted real pressure on Allakhverdiyev and even threatened him. But Aliyev insisted that Allakhverdiyev admit president Abulfaz Elchibey's leading Ganja operation.

Deputies Isa Kamberov and Tofik Gasimov declared that it was intolerable to hold the sitting like this. Isa Kamberov refused of making the speech, saying that "sitting of the parliament is turned into court". To Isa Kamberov words, procurator of the republic and Ganja garrison started to call concrete persons the criminals before inquiry's end.

The member of committee of inquiry deputy Ibrakhim Ibrakhimov in his talk with TURAN's correspondent said: "We are watching how complete lawlessness take place in the parliament. We are the witnesses of real pressure and threats on deputies from the speaker of the parliament. To speak of objectiveness in such association is just ridiculous".

Kamberov for Further Investigation

LD1607171093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1455 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, 16 Jul—In spite of his original statement that he did not wish to address the parliamentary session, ex-speaker Isa Kamberov has decided to heed the persistent calls of his deputy colleagues. His speech opened the afternoon session of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan.

This was not an easy decision to make for the political leader, who only recently was chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Yesterday he was named as one of a number of former state officials who were said to be have been politically responsible for the events in Ganja, which led to an armed clash between the authorities and the opposition. This conclusion was arrived at by a deputies' commission of enquiry investigating the tragedy in the western Azerbaijan town on 4 June.

Explaining the reason for his reluctance to make a speech, Isa Kamberov noted that in his view, "it was dictated by numerous infringements of the regulations, and also by the fact that the National Assembly session has in essence been turned into a trial." He said that it was difficult to agree completely with the conclusions of the deputies' commission of enquiry, and that "there are many points in its final report that prompt questions." In particular he believes that the question of "who was first to open fire in Ganja" has not yet been solved.

The ex-speaker stressed that one must not ignore the fact that the 709th Army Brigade did not obey orders from the command, and that there was nothing criminal at all in issuing an order for it to be disbanded. On the whole, there are many points that require serious investigation, he believes.

Isa Kamberov is convinced that "after 4 June certain forces, taking advantage of the situation that had developed, set out to seize power in Azerbaijan and achieved their objective, profiting from the fact that the republic's former leadership did not want bloodshed." The speaker rejected accusations made toward him that he was one of the ringleaders in the Ganja operation. He said "these are unfounded and slanderous in nature." It is possible to prove his involvement in what took place "only in the course of an investigation, and not at a National Assembly session." He also noted that "a mechanism of repressions against democratic forces has been put into action in the republic," but that this "does not frighten him."

In Isa Kamberov's view, the events in Ganja were a national tragedy, and the republic's former leadership bears moral responsibility for it. As for criminal responsibility, he believes this must be borne by those directly to blame for the bloodshed.

Leaders Blamed for 'Tragic Events'

LD1707094893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 17 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevinzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku July 17 TASS—The majority of the Azeri parliament which completed its session late on Friday [16 July], is prepared to pass a no-confidence vote in the Azeri President Abdulfaz Elchibey, as one of the main figures responsible for tragic events in Ganja on June 4. However, a final decision to this effect and debates on a possibility of holding a referendum on confidence in the president have been postponed until the next session of the Azeri parliament.

The parliament, which had been discussing for two days running a final report made by a commission investigating the events in Ganja, passed a resolution assessing the tragic events as "a result of a deliberate policy of the Azeri leadership, planned beforehand, and as the consequence of the violation of the Azeri constitution and its laws." The responsibility for the tragedy rests with the president, former parliament chairman, prosecutor general, defence and interior ministers and other officials, the resolution said.

The Azeri prosecutor's office has been entrusted to carry out an investigation and establish an extent to which each of them is to blame for the tragedy.

Session 'Well-Rehearsed Performance'

NC1707143693 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 17 (TURAN)—Last night Milli Mejlis accepted the decision on vote of no-confidence to Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey.

In this document, comprising of six points, Ganja developments from June 4 are considered to be "the crime against the nation" and the group of leaders of the country headed by the president are called "organizers of this crime".

In line with Milli Mejlis decision, besides the president, former Prime-Minister Panakh Guseynov, Chairman of the Parliament Isa Kamberov, State Secretary Ali Kerimov, General Procurator Ikhtiyar Shirinov, Defense Minister Dadash Rizayev, Minister of Internal Affairs Abdullah Allakhverdiyev, Minister of National Security Fakhraddin Takhmazov, his First Deputy Minister Sulheddin Akperov, Commander of Internal Forces Fahmin Gajiyev, Deputy of President Apparatus Department Fazil Mustafayev, Chairman of PFA [Azerbaijani Popular Front] Executive Committee Faraj Kuliyev bear political responsibility for Ganja developments.

Yesterday Milli Mejlis, on representation of procurator of the republic, agreed to institute criminal proceedings against deputates I. Shirinov, S. Akperov and Isa Kamberov. The first two persons had been arrested on June 4 in Ganja by Surat Guseynov supporters, Isa Kamberov was arrested last night in parliament building. At the same time former Premier Panakh Guseynov was arrested in his apartment. Yesterday noon former ministers of internal affairs and national security were also under arrest.

The chairman of Milli Mejlis Geydar Aliyev rejected at the sitting statements of number of deputates, that 709 brigade's actions had been of rebellious character. It is notable, that originally in his report chairman of commission said, Surat Guseynov had beared political responsibility too, but deputates did not back that opinion.

The cause of the sitting reminded of well-rehearsed performance, guided by smart producer. The chairman gave the floor to Surat Guseynov's supporters, who had nothing to do with Milli Mejlis. In their diffused statements, they accused president and his supporters of all earthy sins without adducing and proof. Those statements were actively backed by the deputates of former party nomenclature, who even had offered to ban PFA activity.

The lawyers invited by Geydar Aliyev, stated, in line with Constitution president could not be proclaimed impeachment. That's why on proposal of Professor Murtuza Aleskerov, Milli Mejlis at the next sitting will discuss the question on no-confidence to the President Elchibey, that, in fact, would mean removing him from his office.

In compliance with 121-7 Article of Constitution of Azerbaijan, elections of new president of the country are due to be held three months after former leaders of the government removing from the power.

Further on 16 Jul Session

LD1707153393

[Editorial Report] Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Network in Azeri at 1924 GMT on 16 July carries a 30-minute relay of the Azerbaijani National Assembly session in Baku, chaired by acting president Geydar Aliyev.

The session opens with some remarks by Aliyev, who says many people have spoken at sessions over the past two days, and therefore speeches should be kept short.

The deputy governor of Kelbajar speeks about Ganja incidents and blames Isa Kamberov, the former chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, and says that Kamberov should be under house arrest.

Next, the chief procurator of Azerbaijan also blames Kamberov with being the organizer of the Ganja incidents and and says that criminal proceedings should be instituted against him. Other speakers come to the rostrum with accusations against Kamberov.

Aliyev asks deputies to vote for a proposal concerning Isa Kamberov's dismissal from the membership of the National Assembly and instituting criminal proceedings agaist him at the request of the procurator. He announces the voting results: 29 deputies voted for the proposal, with nine against.

Deputies then discuss the report of the investigative commission of deputies and go on to discuss procedures. A professor talks about the legal procedure determining a vote of no confidence and says that according to the Constitution if the president has violated the Constitution he could either be dismissed or his powers could be transferred to the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. He accuses Abulfaz Elchibey of violating the law and Constitution and he proposes that Paragraph Six of Article 121 of the Consitution should be applied to remove the president from his post.

Aliyev says that the question of a no confidence vote in the president should be discussed in the next session and a decision is adopted on this. Aliyev then announces the end of the session.

Former Security Minister Takhmazov Arrested

LD1607173193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During a break in today's Milli Mejlis session, Major General Takhmazov, former Azerbaijani national security minister, was arrested. He is accused by Geydar Aliyev of being one of the organizers of the operation to disarm the 709th Brigade on 4 June in the town of Ganja.

Former Chairman Isa Kamberov Arrested

LD1707100193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] RIA reports that Isa Kamberov, the former chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, has been arrested in Baku. At a session of the republic's national assembly, deputies agreed with a submission by Azerbaijan's general procurator that Kamberov be deprived of his deputy's mandate and arrested in connection with the events in Ganja.

Party Headquarters Searched

NC1707142693 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, July 17 (TURAN)—Yesterday July 16 Milli Mejlis on representation of procurator office of the republic agreed to institute criminal proceedings against former Chairman of Supreme Soviet, chairman of "Musavat" party Isa Kamberov, in connection with investigation of "Ganja" developments.

Isa Kamberov had been arrested by security service before that decision of Milli Mejlis was accepted. This midnight the police searched the apartment of former head of the parliament.

As press-center of "Musavat" party reported, tonight party's headquarter and the apartment of the secretary of "Musavat" Niyazi Ibragimov have been searched too.

Distributed by executive committee of "Musavat" statement, runs Azerbaijani authorities declared of "hunting for witches". [sentence as received] In connection with this, party called on democratic world public to express the voice of protest.

"Musavat" party was established at the beginning of this century and is one of the oldest political parties of Azerbaijan. It stands for independence and democratic development of the state.

Isa Kamberov Views Recent Governmental Changes

NC1607122393 Baku TURAN in English 1044 GMT 16 Jul 93

["Isa Kamberov: 'The Play Have Been Acted Out in Parliament'"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku July 16 (TURAN)—"The forces, that commited a coup won the victory. This forces are sure, that they will escape the trial of justice, that is why they try to push all the responsibility on the former leadership",—Isa Kamberov, the ex-speaker of the parliament told TURAN agency correspondent by the end of the yesterdays parliament sitting.

To his mind, the speeches of the procurators and their divulgence of the materials of investigation before the begging of the law-suit are aimed at formation public opinion against President Elchibey and his encirclement.

As reported, yesterday at the evening sitting of Milli Mejlis military procurator Rovshan Aliyev and the procurator of the Republic Ali Omarov stated, that the operation in Ganja July 16 was a beforehand planned action directed by the Prime-Minister Panakh Guseynov. Former Defense Minister Dadash Rizayev stated, that he received the order to carry out the operation by phone directly from President Elcibey.

It is notable, that earlier D. Rizayev and all the other high-ranking persons were denying the existance of any plan on disarmament of the brigade N 709 in Ganja.

'Dozens' of Elchibey Supporters Arrested 17 Jul

LD1707212893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Dozens were arrested in Baku on Saturday [17 July] as the police moved in to disperse a demonstration in support of the former President Abulfaz Elchibey. Police batons were used. [passage omitted]

Popular Front Leadership Blamed

LD1807174293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] A large rally by supporters of the Popular Front and the country's ex-President Abulfaz Elchibey was broken up in Baku yesterday. [passage omitted]

Our editorial office received a report a few hours ago from Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative in Moscow, which places full responsibility for yesterday's disorders and clashes in Baku on the leadership of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan. The report says that a large rally was held in the city of Baku on 17 July. Those taking part—among whom were armed persons—were grossly violating public order, upsetting the population, and were provoking the law-enforcement bodies. As a result of attacks on the police, there were clashes.

There are casualties among those attending the rally and among the police officers. Forty-five people were detained for organizing the disorders. The same day, following the rally, militants from the Popular Front of Azerbaijan fired a grenade launcher at the 28th police station in the city of Baku; six police officers were wounded, one seriously.

That was a report from Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative in Moscow.

Mission in Moscow Condemns Demonstration

LD1807184393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1704 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Jul—The mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Moscow today issued a statement on yesterday's rally in Baku by supporters of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan [PFA]. The document says, in particular, that the participants in that small demonstration, among whom were armed persons, grossly violated public order, upsetting the population, and provoked the law enforcement bodies. The course of events demonstrated that it was a venture planned in advance. The participants in the rally approached in coaches, where stones had been gathered in readiness. As a result of an attack on the police there were clashes. There are casualties among those attending the rally and police officers.

Forty-five people were detained for organizing the disorders. They were released three hours later, after their identities had been established. All those detained are citizens of Azerbaijani nationality.

Tension in the republic's capital and in several other cities is being maintained by illegal armed formations of the PFA, to which arms were distributed on a massive scale following the events in the city of Ganja. The same day, following the rally, militants from the Popular Front of Azerbaijan fired a grenade launcher at the 28th police station in Baku; six police officers were wounded, one of them seriously.

In the present situation, the statement says, declarations by the PFA's leaders, who very nearly pushed the Azerbaijani people into a fratricidal war, sound cynical and amoral.

Defense Ministry Reports More Villages Shelled

NC1607122293 Baku TURAN in English 1044 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Spelling of all place-names as received]

[Text] Baku July 16 (TURAN)—As Defense Ministry press-service reports, last night Armenian artillery intensively shelled villages Hasangaya and Chayli, that are in the north of Karabakh (Agdaera region). At the same time the enemy launched a reconnaissance in force there.

According to the reports of the reconnaissance, the transport of extra military units and equipment to the north of Karabakh through Kalbajar region, seized by Armenians continue. As reported, a field headquarter of Armenian Defense Ministry was created and functions in Karabakh, where strategic plans of the offensive upon Geranboy region of Azerbaijan being worked out.

At the same time the shellings of Azeri settlements along all the frontier from the territory of Armenia have intensified. So, yesterday late at the evening the villages of Kubatli region bordering with Armenia were shelled from the territory of Goriss region of Armenia by means of machine-guns and armoured personnel carriers. At the same time the settlement Sardarak of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was shelled by means of rocket-trucks. There were no victims.

Trench battles in the vicinity of Agdam continue. Military operations in the vicinity of the villages Saybadli and Muganli, seized by the Armenians before, go on.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Comments on Letters From Clinton

LD1707145293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Having familiarized himself with the two letters from the U.S. president, the head of the Georgian state addressed the population of Georgia. Here is the text of the address:

[Announcer] U.S. President Clinton's reply to my letter and his response to my appeal to his colleagues which I sent to Tokyo before their summit there are significant in their essence. They do not require any explanation. Anyway, the letter provoked my wish to address my compatriots briefly.

We are by no means alone in the world. We have many friends and among those a strong, powerful and generous one—the United States. Let us remember how many states extended a helping hand to us, be it political, economic, or humanitarian help.

In this respect an example of the Unites States is noteworthy. Through the efforts of the leaders of this country, first 100,000 and then 250,000 tonnes of grain have been sent to Georgia. Now 30 million [U.S.] dollars will be allotted to us to purchase foodstuffs. This sum exceeds the whole annual budget of Georgia. We were also promised other sorts of aid which will enable us to survive in the situation of the severe economic crisis.

I believe that we will survive and win and our friends will assist us in it. All my efforts will be directed towards this, but at the same time, I mainly trust in our people. In the first instance, our revival and our victory depend on ourselves. If we do not step aside from the way of democratic changes, our efforts will be even stronger supported in the civilized world.

Permit me, on your behalf, to thank president Clinton and all those who do not desert us in these hard times.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze

Paper Highlights Russian Weapons Transfers

AU1607154493 Tbilisi 7 DGHE in Georgian 9-15 Jul 93 p 7

[Mamuka Dzebisashvili article: "The Russian Weapon Adventure in the Transcaucasus"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] As a result of the Tashkent agreement, quotas were established for transferring weapons to the Transcaucasian republics. According to these quotas, from the weaponry of the former USSR, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia are to receive: 100 combat aircraft, 50 attack helicopters, 220 tanks, 220 armored cars, and 285 artillery systems (no less than 100-mm caliber). The types of weapons were not specified.

Up to now, Georgia has received: 109 tanks (the majority being the T-54/T-55 type), 203 armored cars (the majority being IFV-1; IFV-2; APC-70]; BRDM; BMD and MT-LB and 13 artillery systems. This hardware belonged, for the most part, to the Akhaltsikhe 10th Division and the Gori Tank Regiment. We can see at a glance the great difference between the quotas and hardware that has been transferred. The Russian military does not tire "in affirming that the hardware stipulated in the quotas has already been transferred to Georgia."

Regarding military aviation, the Russians have taken everything from the airfields. Of the seven airfields designated for airplanes and the three helicopter airfields existing in Georgia, only two are currently under Russian jurisdiction, namely the airfields at Vaziani and Gudauta. At Vaziani, there are a small number of

MiG-24 fighter aircraft [as published] and Su-17 fighter-bombers. The bulk of the aircraft was transferred from this airfield by the Russians as early as in August 1992. In Gudauta, there are Su-27 fighters, Su-25 fighters, and Mi-24, Mi-8 MT helicopters.

So far, the airfields at Kopitnari, Senaki, Shiraki, and Marneuli have been transferred to Georgian jurisdiction. In their time, the Su-24 bombers, MU2-24 fighters, MU2-29 fighters [as published], and other aircraft based there were quickly flown to Russia.

In spite of the aforementioned, the Georgian air forces possess a squadron made up of ten Su-25 type assault aircraft and Mi-24 and Mi-8 MG helicopters. As we see, the Tashkent agreement is not being implemented in this case either. However, Georgian military aircraft are taking an active part in the war in Abkhazia.

It is worth pointing out the situation regarding antiaircraft defense. The Georgian Ministry of Defense has already transferred the weaponry of the 19th Antiaircraft Defense Independent [tsalke] Army, if one can call it weaponry. The majority of the systems have been robbed and damaged while the remaining hardware cannot be used due to the lack of cadres. To all intents and purposes, Georgia's antiaircraft defense is not functioning.

Azerbaijan

[passage omitted] The largest amount of hardware has been transferred to Azerbaijan: 302 tanks (mainly the T-72 types), 267 armored cars, and 810 artillery systems. So, from the point of view of weapons, the Russians have given to Azerbaijan what they failed to give to Georgia. The Azeris have no reason to be dissatisfied with the Russians.

It should be said that Azerbaijan had the strongest air force in the whole Transcaucasus. [passage omitted]

According to unverified information, the Su-21 fighter forms part of the Azerbaijani military air force.

Azerbaijan has almost no antiaircraft defense, if we do not include the 3SU-23-24 [as published] ("Shilka") and the "Strela" and "Igla" antiaircraft missile systems.

Armenia

Armenia has been the least militarized territory in the Transcaucasus. Its military potential has been so small that one could not imagine it becoming a serious military power in the future. It has to be pointed out that, with support and aid from Russia, this is no longer the case. [passage omitted]

Russian troops have transferred to Armenia 164 tanks, 329 armored cars, and 355 artillery systems. Armenia exceeds Georgia in terms of military hardware. [passage omitted]

Armenia's antiaircraft defense, like that of Azerbaijan, is practically not functioning as many systems have been robbed and damaged. However, the Armenians have shot down many Azerbaijani military planes and helicopters using portable "Strela" and "Igla" antiaircraft systems.

Many amphibious warfare ships, landing craft, ASW [anti-submarine warfare] ships, and others belonging to the Black Sea Fleet and based in Poti were quickly taken out of Georgia. As a result, our country has been left with just patrol craft while almost 70 percent of the Caspian Fleet has been transferred to Azerbaijan.

There are Russian weapons everywhere in the Caucasus and we can clearly see the consequences of their use. In spite of this, everyone continues to arm themselves with Russian weapons.

Shevardnadze Names New Council of Ministers Head

LD1807140993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] As we informed you, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament and head of state, flew to Sukhumi today.

Also today, Eduard Shevardnadze held a conference at the Council of Ministers of Abkhazia attended by leaders of the autonomous republic, ministers, and heads of the administrative bodies and military units. Due to the abrupt deterioration of health of Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Abkhazian Defense Council and Council of Ministers, who is now under medical observation in Tbilisi, the head of state decreed the appointment of Zhiuli Shartava, member of the Georgian Parliament, as head of the Abkhazian Defense Council and Council of Ministers. Eduard Shevardnadze noted Tamaz Nadareishvili's selfless and heroic activity at the mentioned posts, and for his bravery and courage shown during the defense of Sukhumi he has been awarded the Order of Vakhtang Gorgasali, 1st class.

Today a meeting is planned between the head of state and Boris Pastukhov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy and the first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation.

Bio on Shartava

LD1807182693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1802 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi July 18 TASS—The Georgian leadership replaced on Sunday the senior Georgian official in the republic's separatist region of Abkhazia, Tamaz Nadareishvili, with a member of the Georgian parliament, Zhiuli Shartava. He is to perform the duties of acting chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers and acting chairman of the Abkhazian Defence Council.

Zhiuli Shartava, aged 49, PH.D. (technical sciences), worked as a teacher and a researcher. Presently he is writing a thesis for a doctor's degree. In the 1970's and 1980's Shartava worked as a high-ranking Communist Party and Komsomol functionary. He graduated from the Diplomatic Academy under the Soviet Foreign Ministry. At present, Shartava is a member of the Georgian Parliament. He is married and has two sons.

Commenting on this appointment, observers note that he is on good terms with many Russian and Abkhazian politicians, which they believe may contribute to the successful outcome of the tripartite negotiations on the Abkhazian conflict, which are currently underway.

In an interview with the Georgian News Agency (GIA), Shartava expressed hope that fighting on the Georgian-Abkhazian front would be ceased and long-awaited peace would be finally established. "I am known well enough in Abkhazia, and what is especially important - among the Gudauta leaders. I am sure we shall find common ground. The war is to teach a bitter lesson to both the Georgian and the Abkhazian peoples", he said.

Shartava Interviewed

LD1907115193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Zhiuli Shartava, a Georgian member of parliament and former communist apparatchik, who was appointed chairman of the Defense Council and Council of Ministers of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, by unidentified correspondent—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Good morning. Welcome to the "Peak Hour" radio program. First, I would like to congratulate you on your new appointment, and now I want to ask you a couple of questions. As far as we know, you, together with Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, attended the meeting with Mr. Boris Pastukhov, Russian President Yeltsin's personal envoy and the first deputy foreign minister of Russia. We know about results of the meeting in general, but we would like to know what Russia's position is and whether the Russian side revealed a position of strength. For instance, would they use economic levers if a cease-fire agreement is not signed? What is Russia's stand?

[Shartava] Thank you for calling me. I also greet you and the listeners. As for yesterday's talks, they were useful; complex and tough, but useful. As for pressure, there was no such pressure from those present at the talks. Of course, we told them that Russia could play a far more active role in the settlement of the conflict. This was the context of our talks. It was pointed out that everything should be directed toward the soonest possible cease-fire and peace, and the issue of declaring a demilitarised zone has become another step in this direction. This proposal was the main subject of the talks.

[Correspondent] Mr. Shartava, yesterday, Russian mass media and the "Novosti" program in particular, made public the fact that after the Georgian side proposed an amendment, the Gudauta side had already rejected it. Have you got any information regarding this?

[Shartava] We do not have any information so far. There will probably be an official response to this during the day.

[Correspondent] Yesterday, in your interview by Georgian television, you called the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict a bitter lesson. Unfortunately, this bitter lesson appears to be rather long. Do you think that this bitter lesson can be ended by a diplomatic bell?

[Shartava] I believe that everything should be done to draw corresponding conclusions from this bitter lesson and that diplomatic channels and political language should be actively used. This is my deep conviction. The situation is complicated, but we have to try this way first.

[Correspondent] Your predecessor, Mr. Tamaz Nadareishvili, has made several radical statements, and he considered a military solution to the conflict as the best one. What do you think about the importance of military force in the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict?

[Shartava] I said yesterday that Abkhazia exists on both sides of the Gumista river. A united and strong Abkhazia within a united and strong Georgia serves the interests of Georgians and Abkhazians, Abkhazians and Georgians. Therefore, we, on both sides of the river should realize that we have to care about this. I am beginning my work with this state of mind. All the rest will be revealed by the situation and work. This is my answer, in general.

[Correspondent] How many times have you been in Abkhazia?

[Shartava] [Words indistinct] rather often on my own initiative.

Abkhazia Agrees to Cease-Fire Following Consultations

LD1607133193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1159 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul—"The leadership of Abkhazia has decided to sign the trilateral agreement with Georgia and Russia on a cease-fire in the region after the consultations which were held a few days ago in Gudauta between Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, and Boris Pastukhov, personal representative of the president of the Russian Federation." Andrey Dzerghenia, head of the Abkhaz delegation at the talks, reported this decision today at a news conference in Moscow. Previously this agreement had been rejected by the Abkhaz side.

In his opinion, after the cease-fire "the question of the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia must be resolved, and the return of the legitimate organs of power to Sukhumi."

Touching on the political aspects of the conflict settlement, Sergey Bagapsh, first deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, noted that "after the situation in the region is stabilized it will be necessary to hold a referendum on the future political structure of the republic, and, depending on the results, to hold talks with Tbilisi." He specified that "it should be primarily a matter of signing a federal treaty with Georgia following the example of the treaty which Russia signed with the subjects of the Federation composing it."

Replying to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent about how the Abkhaz leadership sees the role of international organizations in settling the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, Andrey Dzerghenia said that the leadership of the republic is critical of the participation of the United Nations and the CSCE in the peace process in the region. He said that they resolve all questions in favor of Georgia, thanks to the good links which Eduard Shevardnadze has with these organizations.

Russian, Georgian, Abkhaz Envoys Outline Positions

LD1707082493 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1435 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Boris Pastukhov, the Russian president's personal envoy, made a statement which, along with the description of the latest events in the conflict zone and decisions made at the trilateral talks in Moscow, includes an appeal of the Russian side to the conflict parties to show flexibility, find a compromise, and make immediate moves for signing a cease-fire agreement.

Today, Aleksandre Kavsadze, the Georgian head of state's personal envoy and the head of a Georgian delegation at the Moscow talks, made an official statement which says that in connection with a statement by the Russian president's envoy, the plenipotentiary delegation of the Republic of Georgia confirms its readiness to sign an agreement on cease-fire in Abkhazia and on a mechanism of monitoring its observance without any precondition.

Andrey Dzerghenia, a personal envoy of the chairman of the Abkhazian Republic Supreme Soviet and the head of an Abkhazian delegation at Moscow talks, also made a statement. The statement insists on the complete withdrawal of Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia and the return of legal power bodies of the Abkhaz Republic to Sukhumi.

In conclusion, the author makes the following inference: "We are for such an interim agreement, which should become a basis for the full-scale settlement of the conflict and this is impossible without including the abovementioned items in it."

Abkhazia: Russia Holds Key To End Conflict

LD1807195593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Jul 93

[From the "Results of the Week" program]

[Text] [Announcer] Unlike the border conflict in Tajikistan, Russia is trying to make peace in the Abkhazian conflict by diplomatic means. Kristian Bzhaniye reports from Gudauta for our Sunday's "Results of the Week" program.

[Bzhaniye] The week of calm on the fronts was actively taken advantage of by the diplomats. Boris Pastukhov, the Russian president's personal envoy, will personally fly to Sukhumi again to the meeting with his Georgian colleague Sandro Kavsadze. Even Shevardnadze may fly here. Boris Pastukhov, who is already here, is trying to persuade the Georgian side to sign the plan agreed by the sides in Moscow to stop the war in Abkhazia, and on the mechanism to monitor it. The provisions in the document include requirements for a cease-fire and then for the withdrawal, within a 10-day period, of all the subunits deployed there since the start of the war, and for the return to the capital of the parliament and government of Abkhazia that was formed before 14 August 1992; that is, before the start of the war. Georgia is agreeable to everything except the last provision and does not want a contingent of Russian troops to be deployed as part of the peacekeeping force. Abkhazia will not make concessions, and Russia is trying to persuade it. Meanwhile the war continues.

[Announcer] I will remind you that the start of military operations was called forth by the Abkhazian landing in Ochamchirskiy [Ochamchira] rayon, as a result of which Sukhumi turned out to be practically cut off from the outside world. Here is Nikolay Mamulashvili, Iprinda Agency, with a report of the Georgian version of the subsequent events.

[Mamulashvili] After dogged fighting the landing force in Ochamchirskiy rayon was completely eliminated. According to a report from Georgian sources, the Abkhazian landing force suffered great manpower and equipment losses in that rayon. Immediately after that Georgia's Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili issued an ultimatum in which he demanded that the Gudauta leadership should stop all military operations in the region, including on the line from Shroma to Akhalsheni, as well as the artillery bombardment of residential areas of Sukhumi. In the event of refusal to do this, the Georgian side retained the right to strike blows all along the front line along the River Gumista.

At the same time, diplomats actively sought peaceful ways of getting out of the situation that had been created, and settling the conflict in general. Last week Boris Pastukhov, the Russian president's personal envoy, went to Gudauta and then visited Tbilisi where he met with Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state. Incidentally, Shevardnadze himself, when speaking at the session of the Georgian parliament, stressed that it will be very difficult to resolve the conflict in Abkhazia without the participation of Russia, if at all possible. The keys to settling the conflict, he said, are in Moscow.

Abkhazia: Shevardnadze Clearing 'Obstructions' to Peace

LD1807213993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2022 GMT 18 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It is possible that this time the diplomatic efforts of Russia to resolve the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict have been crowned with success. It is also possible that this has not occurred.

In either event, Georgian leader Shevardnadze and Yeltsin's personal envoy Pastukhov met in Sukhumi on Sunday [18 July]. Boris Pastukhov tried to persuade Shevardnadze to accept the plan to end the war which Georgia rejected on Friday and Abkhazia supported. According to the REUTERS agency Shevardnadze has brought to Sukhumi new proposals to put an end to the conflict that has been going on for 11 months now.

On Sunday the Abkhazian Defense Ministry reported that its subunits are in control of the villages of Shroma and Akhalsheyni, as well as the adjacent hydropower station.

Representatives of the Georgian command have stated that more than 3,000 civilians and servicemen have already perished in this war.

Both sides are suffering colossal losses and are tired of this war. It is a well-known fact that it is always easier to start a war than to extricate oneself from it. This Sunday, Eduard Shevardnadze took a step that possibly indicates that the Georgian leader is clearing away the obstructions impeding the conclusion of a peace treaty. He sacked Nadareishvili, chairman of the Abkhazian Defense council, who is well-known for his hard-line stand, that the conflict can only be resolved by military means.

Shevardnadze, Shartava Propose Abkhaz Demilitarization

LD1907064993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpts] As we have informed you, Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, flew to Sukhumi yesterday.

Also yesterday, talks were held between Eduard Shevardnadze and Boris Pastukhov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy and first deputy foreign minister.

Sandro Kavsadze, one of the participants in these talks, in his conversation with our correspondent Temur Chkhikvadze said that a final cease-fire agreement has not been reached, but according to a proposal by the head of state and Zhiuli Shartava, the chairman of the Abkhazian Defense Council, a new issue was put forward, an issue of demilitarization, which stipulates demilitarization, not in the shape proposed previously in Moscow, but stage-by-stage demilitarization.

Boris Pastukhov will convey this proposal to the Gudauta side.

So, Kavsadze said, we have made yet another step toward the peaceful settlement of the conflict. If the Gudauta side rejects this proposal, too, it will become evident to everyone that they do not want peace. Kavsadze noted that our side and himself personally would never sign a treaty or agreement which is not worthy of the blood shed here, in Abkhazia, and which does not correspond to Georgia's national interests.

Further on Demilitarization

LD1907100693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of Georgia, says that the idea of a general demilitarization of the entire conflict zone is appearing in the process for a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. This idea is not a simple one, but if the authorities in Gudauta agree to it in principle, it will entail a cease-fire, the withdrawal of troops, and a corresponding system of monitoring by international ogranizations and Russian representatives.

Shevardnadze, in an interview given to journalists after a meeting with Boris Pastukhov, the Russian president's representative, stressed that if the Abkhaz side accepts this idea, then it could pave the way for a very important decision. Boris Pastukhov said that the sides will work seriously on the idea of demilitarization.

Military Captures Village, Moves Along Gumista River

NC1607135193 Yerevan SNARK in English 1159 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Tbilisi, July 16 (SNARK)—Georgian Defense Ministry told SNARK Georgian units managed to capture the Shroma village.

The retreated Abkhazian units are concentrating forces along the Gumista River.

No changes in the Ochamchira direction.

The Georgian side hasn't yet realized all its threatens mentioned in the ultimatum introduced to the Gudauta leadership.

Forces Mount 'Offensive'

LD1607142293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Tbilisi/Gudauta/Sochi, 16 Jul—Georgian armed forces began an offensive at noon today against the Abkhazian formations in the vicinity of the villages of Shroma and Akhalsheni to the north of Sukhumi. Reports to this effect have come in from the press centre of the Georgian armed forces in Sukhumi. Bloody fighting is taking place. The Georgian troops are trying to dislodge the enemy from positions that open up the way to the Abkhazian capital. According to the press center's information, the offensive is developing successfully.

The press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet has not confirmed this information. What is more, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told that no changes of position have occurred on the line of the Gumista front, and sporadic exchanges of fire are taking place.

According to the Georgian side, the opposing sides are carrying out a regrouping of their forces in the Gumista sector, preparing, in all probability, for offensive action. An exchange of artillery strikes is taking place. Last night, Sukhumi was again bombarded by "Grad" rocket launchers.

At the same time, the press service of the Abkhazian Defense Ministry reported that yesterday Georgian troops shelled the inhabited localities of Shroma and Kaman. There are wounded among the soldiers of the Abkhazian army.

According to the same source, the Abkhazian formations in Ochamchirskiy (Ochamchira) rayon carried out a successful operation to capture one of the dominating heights in the vicinity of the village of Bediya. During the fighting, four mortars, 80 automatic weapons, and one artillery gun were seized. Several Georgian soldiers were captured. Among the men of the Abkhazian army, several were wounded and three were killed.

Abkhaz Defense Ministry Denies Offensive

LD1707155193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Abkhazia's Defense Ministry has denied reports by Georgian, Russian and foreign news media about a large-scale offensive by the Georgian side. The villages of Akhalsheni, Kamani, and Shroma continue to be under the control of the Abkhaz armed forces.

Sides Issue Conflicting Reports

LD1607160893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By an ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi/Gudauta/Sochi July 16 TASS—Georgian armed forces launched an offensive on Abkhazian units in the area of Shroma and Akhalsheni villages north of Sukhumi this afternoon, the press centre of the Georgian armed forces in Sukhumi reported. Bloody fighting is going on, Georgian troops are trying to dislodge the enemy from positions that open the way to the capital of Abkhazia. The offensive is being carried out successfully, according to the press centre.

This information was not confirmed in the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet. Moreover, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told that no positional changes on the Gumista frontline have occurred, only skirmishes are reported.

According to the Georgian side, the warring parties are re-grouping their forces in the Gumista direction, evidently preparing for offensive actions. Artillery strikes are exchanged. Sukhumi was shelled by Grad multiple-launch missiles last night.

At the same time, the press service of the Abkhazian Defence Ministry reported that Georgian troops unleashed artillery barrages at Shroma and Kaman villages on Thursday. Injured are reported among the Abkhazian Army soldiers.

According to the same source, Abkhazian units in Ochamchira district carried out a successful operation to seize a dominating feature of the ground in the area of Bediya village. Four mortars, 80 pieces of firearms and one artillery gun were seized during the fighting. Several Georgian soldiers were taken prisoner. Several people were injured and three killed among Abkhazian Army soldiers.

Abkhaz Positions North of Sukhumi Shelled

LD1707132693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report from Abkhazia by correspondent Gongadze; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Georgian troops today continued their assault on the Abkhazian positions north of Sukhumi. Several strategic heights were taken. There are reports of the destruction of large quantities of combat equipment and loss of personnel. The Georgian subunits are now controlling the village of Shroma. The republic's naval ships are carrying out intensive patrols of the coastline. Last night Sukhumi was shelled again. So far no fatalities have been reported. Three civilians were injured and several houses destroyed. There is still no water or electricity in the city. Representatives of the Georgian commission for exchanging prisoners of war are trying in vain to free a 15-year old inhabitant of Shroma stranded in Gudauta.

The Georgian leadership believes that the conflict should be resolved by political means. However, its attitude toward the article in the agreement which deals with deployment of the Georgian troops and other military formations on the territory of Abkhazia remains controversial. Boris Pastukhov, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative, is working intensively both in Tbilisi and Gudauta.

'Artillery Duels' Continue

LD1807104793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1036 GMT 18 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Gudauta July 18 TASS—According to reports received by ITAR-TASS from the press service of the Abkhazian parliament, artillery duels are being continued in the Shroma-Akhalsheni sector on Sunday [18 July].

At 19:00 on Saturday, after an intensive artillery preparation, Georgian troops launched an attack in the direction of Shroma village. The attack was repulsed after two-hour fighting. The same source reported that on Saturday afternoon Georgian troops launched an unsuccessful attack in the Bedi sector of the eastern front but had to withdraw to the initial positions.

Estonia

Laar Comments on Upcoming Narva Referendum

WS1607115693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0712 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Friday, July 16—Prime Minister Mart Laar expressed doubts in whether the government will appeal to the Riigikogu to consider the relaxation of naturalization procedure after the Narva town council persisted in conducting their plebiscite on July 16-17. "I consider it unlikely in the present situation," Laar said.

He admitted that the government had discussed with the CSCE High Commissioner Max van der Stoel submitting a draft law to the Riigikogu on granting the citizenship without the one-year wait to aliens standing for office at the local elections as a sign of good will. "But only in case the Narva town council had listened to the Round Table appeal and postponed the plebiscite," Laar explained. The government will not grant citizenship simply in order to enable aliens to stand for office at the local elections, he added. "That cannot be done," Laar said.

Referendum on Autonomy Under Way

LD1607105793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1038 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn July 16 TASS—Residents of Narva, an Estonian city with predominantly Russian population, are taking part in a referendum today. They are to give an answer to only one question: "Do you want Narva to be a national-territorial autonomous region, integrated in the Estonian Republic?"

If the majority of those taking part in the referendum says yes, the local authorities will be able to suggest to the Tallinn authorities the holding of elections in Narva with the participation of all its adult residents, irrespective of citizenship. The law that has been in effect since last spring does not allow those who are not citizens of Estonia to be members of local government bodies.

The referendum has been described as anticonstitutional by the central authorities of Estonia. However, taking into consideration the crisis situation in the north-east of the republic, the authorities decided not to resort to force, blocking the referendum.

The voting started several days ago. Some 2,000 people—those who for this or that reason cannot vote today—came to polling stations to cast their ballots.

On July 17 a similar referendum will be held in the city of Sillamae, close to Narva.

Ceding Narva Viewed

WS1607151393 Tallinn BNS in English 1426 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Narva, July 16, BNS—The Estonian government's representative to Narva, Indrek Tarand, hinted in an address over the Narva radio that Estonian political forces are thinking of ceding this Russian-populated city to Russia. The Russian-language Estoniya newspaper published excerpts of Tarand's speech in its Friday [16 July] issue. Tarand is quoted as saying: "I have been asked about my opinion on the (Estonian-Russian) border being moved to this side of Narva, and Narva thus being ceded to the Russian Federation. I must say that this variant is being considered. "While Mr. Chuikin and Mr. Malkovsky (the Narva leaders - BNS) have taken the inflexible course of returning to Russia, or the Soviet Union...the Estonian political forces are investigating such a possibility. Indeed, if that is what people wish, why oppose them?

"It is wiser to give in. ...Such a small state cannot continue a policy of strong currency if decisions that do not honor the Estonian Constitution are made."

The Estonian independent Kuku Radio stressed in its comment Friday morning that Tarand is the official representative of the government who is supposed to express the government's official viewpoint.

The feedback that Radio Tallinn, Kuku Radio's Russian-language sister station, has been receiving indicates that a large part of the Russian population regard Tarand's statement as the government's official consent to give up Narva on the basis of the referendum's outcome.

There are reports that Tarand's address has aroused great indignation in the Estonian government circles.

Tarand later protested the paper's quoting select excerpts from his radio address on the front page, the government's press service reports. He said his words were taken out of context.

"What I meant was that Chuikin and Malkovsky have been trying for years with their activity to separate Narva from Estonia," he said. "Only those who are in favor of such activity will take part in the referendum. I wish people would reflect on which acts they are tricked into committing," he noted.

Tarand said he does not have the verbatim text of his address since he did not tape it. "But I would hope the situation in Narva will not become more tense because it is painted blacker than it is," he said. "Narva is an Estonian city and will remain so."

However, a high-ranking government official told BNS that Tarand has made "a big mistake".

Prime Minister Makes Statement

LD1607200193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar today issued a statement in connection with the Narva referendum. The statement says that the referendum is being held despite the fact that the justice chancellor proclaimed it illegal and a postponement of the referendum was sought both by the CSCE high commissioner and by a roundtable organized at the initiative of the president. By the way, from among the representatives of the Russian community, Kuznetsov, the deputy chairman of the Narva town council, also agreed with the last document. Unfortunately, some leaders of the Narva town council have deliberately tried to exacerbate the situation.

In the words of the prime minister, the government does not intend to submit to provocations. The efforts by former communist functionaries Chuykin and Mishin to exacerbate the situation are due to a fear of losing their power at the approaching local government elections. A deepening of market economy reforms and a change in the style of thinking accompanying this means a success at the local elections for those who are starting from economic realities and the basic ideas of democracy. Taking the demographic situation of Narva into account, this would obviously mean the emergence of new representatives of the Russian community, the prime minister's statement emphasizes.

As a consequence of the Narva council's policy, Narva has lost large amounts of foreign investment. The government is being hampered deliberately in finding ways for improving the socioeconomic situation of Narva. An open collaboration of some Narva politicians with antidemocratic forces places Narva between two fires by deepening the political crisis in Russia and by damaging the forces behind President Yeltsin.

To normalize the situation, it it important to note that in October, in Narva, as in all of Estonia, free democratic elections were held with the participation of international observers. This is the key for solving the complex knot around Narva, affirms Prime Minister Mart Laar in his statement.

Referendum Proceeding 'Peacefully'

LD1607194893 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The referendum in Narva is proceeding peacefully. By 0800 hours this evening, nearly 17,000 people, or approximately a quarter of the registered voters, chiefly pensioners, had voted. A majority of them, presumably, voted for autonomy. There have been no reported incidents in the town. Also, Estonian and Russian border guards confirm that there have been no border incidents.

Results of Narva, Sillamae Referendums

LD1807044493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0347 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, 18 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—More than 54 percent of people on the voting lists turned out for the referendum in Narva, and of them 97.2 percent voted for the town to become an autonomous national-territorial entity within the Republic of Estonia. These figures were reported to ITAR-TASS over the phone from the town referendum commission. A member of the commission said that they are considered preliminary pending affirmation by a special session of the town council.

The results of an identical referendum held in another town in northeastern Estonia overwhelmingly populated by Russian-speakers, Sillemae, emerged a little earlier. There, 98.6 percent voted for national-territorial autonomy within Estonia.

So the referenda have gone ahead, although on Friday the republic's official authorities declared them anticonstitutional; they have been using every peaceful method open to them to persuade the Narva and Sillemae authorities either to call the referenda off or postpone them.

The chairman of the Narva town council, Vladimir Chuykin, said in response to a question at a news conference that if the authorities declare the results of the referenda illegal, the town retains the right to appeal to an international court of law.

Official Comments on Referendum

LD1807100593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Now here are some referendum details which our correspondent obtained from Vladimir Chuykin, chairman of the Narva Town Council.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] How would you comment on the results of the referendums in Narva and Sillamae, first and foremost of course in Narva?

[Chuykin] The referendum took place in an active and calm way. The results in my view are very good. We had hoped to get more substantial figures, and particularly for a better turnout for the referendum. Nevertheless, the figures we have say that over 54 percent of the adult population from 18 years and over came to the polling stations. This shows that the referendum has taken place and that the results may serve as the basis for continuing a dialogue on the issues existing today.

[Correspondent] Was there any official reaction from Tallinn during the referendum?

[Chuykin] Several statements were made by official Tallinn during the referedum—leaders and ministers of the republic who, generally speaking, had explained their position, saying that the referendum was illegal simply because it was an illegal act. The representative of the government in Narva thanked those who did not take place in the referendum, and said that he and the government will work with them.

The position of the Narva Town Council is completely different. We will continue to work with the population of our town. We accept responsibility for everyone, irrespective of whether they voted or not. In my view, even those who did not come to the polling stations were also involved in the referendum.

[Correspondent] What will be the first consequence of the results of the referendum, bearing in mind that the majority of the inhabitants of Narva voted for an autonomous entity?

[Chuykin] Our main demands or proposals, however you put it, are to have all the discriminatory laws in connection with the Russian-speaking population reviewed—we have listed six of them: the law on language, the law on citizenship, two laws on elections, the law on high schools and other schools, and the law on aliens—and a guarantee that in future there will be no laws of a similar discriminatory nature. That is why the results of the referendum should be directed precisely to this end. In what way this will be resolved and what the real outcome of the results will be—autonomy or no autonomy—will all be decided at talks and at meetings with the official authorities and legislators. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Claims Low Turnout

LD1807110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0948 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Moscow, 18 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—[passage omitted] A press release by the Estonian Foreign Ministry faxed to ITAR-TASS said less than 50 percent of the town of Narva eligible to vote took part in the referendum in the town. This means, the document said, that the Narva town council should resign. Besides this, the press release said the Estonian authorities have "sufficient evidence" that there were violations of voting procedures during the referendum.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent's attempts to get through to the Estonian Foreign Ministry to find out the reason behind the clear discrepancy in the Narva referendum figures were unsuccessful, because nobody answered the call in Tallinn. The official on duty in the Estonian embassy in Moscow advised a telephone call on Monday [19 July] since "everybody is off" today.

Referendum Results Viewed

LD1807144493 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] In the referendum which ended on Saturday [17 July], most of the inhabitants of Narva and Sillamae supported the creation of a national-territorial autonomy within the Republic of Estonia.

According to the local election commissions, 61.4 percent of the electorate participated in the Sillamae referendum. Of those who voted, autonomy was supported by 98.6 percent.

In Narva, 53.22 percent of the electorate—33,816 out of 61,661—voted. Of those who voted, 32,885—97.24 percent—supported autonomy; 787 voted against autonomy, and 141 ballot papers were declared invalid.

At the village of Narva-Joesuu, 42 percent of registered voters voted. The voting results of this populated place have been included among the results of the Narva referendum.

Although no written complaints were received regarding the referendum procedure from any of the 18 [as heard] polling stations opened in Narva, Indrek Tarand, the Estonian Government's representative, reported that he has information about fundamental violations of the published regulations.

After the voting results were made known, the Narva leaders told a news conference that the referendum provides a legal foundation for talks with the Estonian leadership with the purpose of ensuring equal rights for all inhabitants of Estonia.

The town leaders said they would welcome steps by the Estonian Government. Council Deputy Vladimir Khomakov announced that attention is being paid first of all to the annulment of the six discriminatory laws, or, (?earlier) still, changing the nationalistic strategy of the Estonian leadership.

Town Council chairman Vladimir Chuykin affirmed again that the council would have resigned if the referendum had produced a contrary result. He said the voting results will now be sent to Tallinn, and because of this they have been drawn up in Estonian.

Estonian Justice Chancellor Erik-Juhan Truuvali declared that the Narva and Sillamae autonomy referendum violates the Constitution, and gave the town 20 days to change its decision. As this has not been done, the matter will probably be discussed at the state court.

The Estonian Government has also condemned the referendum, but did not take any steps to hinder it.

Narva Town Council Chairman Vladimir Chuykin told the BNS [BALTIC NEWS SERVICE] that although the results of the referendum held in Narva were very good, the town leadership a rather more impressive result, especially with regard to the turnout.

Indrek Tarand, the government's representative in Narva, told the BNS that the idea of autonomy did not obtain essential support at the referendum. It is clear that a large number of people living in Narva see the solution to the situation in cooperation with the Estonian Government on the basis of Estonia's laws, not in autonomy, Tarand added.

According to journalists who followed the referendum, it was primarily pensioners and middle-aged people who went to the polling stations. The younger generation was more indifferent toward the referendum.

Vladimir Chuykin considers that it is still too early to determine the age groups of those who voted, but that attention should be paid to this aspect to discover the reason for it.

Chuykin criticized Indrek Tarand for saying that the Estonian Government will begin to cooperate first with those of the town's inhabitants who did not vote. We intend to work with all the inhabitants, Chuykin confirmed to BNS. At the referendum the majority of the inhabitants of Narva and Sillamae supported the idea of ethnic autonomy within Estonia. In the opinion of Vladimir Chuykin, autonomy means, first of all, bilingualism, an automatic granting of citizenship, and the right to locally determine the town's budget. Chuykin thinks the referendum gives the Narva leadership a mandate to negotiate the repeal of six discriminatory laws—the laws on citizenship, language, parliamentary elections, local self-government election, foreigners, and schools and gymnasiums. At the same time, Chuykin thinks it would be sufficient to alter two laws, the citizenship and language laws.

Laar Expresses Gratitude for 'Restraint'

LD1807160293 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] In connection with the referendum held in Narva, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar expressed thanks to the majority of the people of Narva for restraint and for being balanced, ETA reports. As is known, the majority of the people of Narva did not support the idea of national-territorial autonomy. The government press office notes falsifications had to used in order to obtain a majority result.

The prime minister stressed the constructive attitude of the public organizations of Narva and of the Narva unemployed and directors and expressed hope that the people of Narva would actively participate in October of 1993 in the elections of local self-government bodies.

The head of the government is convinced that a soothing of tensions will bring investments to Narva and will allow getting out of the present complicated situation.

Authorities Question Results

LD1907090193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn July 19 TASS— Sessions of the municipal councils of Narva and Sillamae, cities in north-east of Estonia with the Russian-speaking population, will discuss today the results of the referendums on the granting to these cities of the status of national-territorial autonomies within Estonia. Fifty-four per cent of residents of Narva and 61 per cent of the population of Sillamae participated in the referendums. 97 and 98 per cent, respectively, of the poll voted for the autonomy.

The Estonian authorities call in question the results of the referendum in Narva. They say that there had been malpractices and that the referendum's results had been rigged. As it was already reported, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar sent greetings on Sunday to the "majority of Narva residents" who showed restraint and did not participate in the referendum. The head of the government thanked them and said that the "announced data on the participation in the referendum and the referendum's results had been falsified". No specific cases of the falsification have been reported.

The question of the referendum will be discussed on July 20 by the Estonian State Court which has the functions of the Constitutional Court. Even before the referendums were held, the Estonian chancellor of justice proclaimed them unconstitutional. The Estonian authorities more than once suggested to leaders of Narva and Sillamae that the referendums be called off or held at a later date.

As Estonia has no laws prohibiting the holding of population polls, chairman of the Narva municipal council Vladimir Chuykin believes that the referendum did not violate legal norms directly. Even before the referendum was held he said he would go along with the authorities if the court proved that the referendum was unlawful and abrogated its results.

Russian Commander Refrains From Authorizing Arms

PM1907091793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 93 p 3

[Northwestern Group of Forces Press Center report: "Commander of Northwestern Group of Forces Hopes for Estonian Side's Political Wisdom"]

[Text] Commanders of troop units stationed in Estonia have appealed to Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces, in connection with the adoption of the Law "On Aliens" by the parliament of the Estonian Republic. In particular, the appeal sets forth and substantiates a request for personal weapons to be issued to Russian servicemen serving in Estonia and for armed groups to be set up with combat hardware for the purpose of defending the servicemen's honor and dignity.

The Northwestern Group of Forces Press Center is authorized to report that the commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces is endowed with sufficient juridical powers to adopt such a decision but is refraining at present from radical measures which might entail unpredictable consequences, reckoning that the

Estonian side will display political wisdom and stop discriminating against Russian servicemen and members of their families.

Defense Forces on Possible Purchase of Czech Aircraft

WS1607120193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0712 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From 16 July RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, pp 1, 13]

[Text] Friday, July 16—Representatives of the Czech aviation company "Aero Vodochody" demonstrated the light attack and training aircraft "Albatros L-39ZA" in the Tallinn Airport yesterday. Estonia was represented by Defence Minister Hain Rebas, chief of the GHQ Colonel Ants Laaneots and military experts, parliamentary defence commission chairman Rein Helme and Interior Minister Lagle Parek. The two ministers and the commission chairman were treated to a short flight aboard the aircraft.

The Defence Forces [DF] headquarters held a news conference later on possible purchase of the L-39. Czech experts stressed that the aircraft meets the Western standards in every respect except the price—1.5 million dollars as compared to 4.5 or 10 million for the analogical Western-built machines. They suggested that the Baltic states could coordinate their purchases and might also buy a training, repair and maintenance centre for common use. They also added that the price could be a matter of negotiations.

Colonel Laaneots and Defence Minister Rebas admitted that the L-39 could meet Estonia's defence needs. Laaneots said that the DF could need 6-8 aircraft, Rebas pointed out that 4 would be a minimum amount. But the problems are concerned with finding the necessary funds, both admitted.

Lieutenant Colonel Ilja Hanak, Czech Military Attache to Latvia and Lithuania, was present at the news conference and added his recommendations concerning the L-39. Hanak told ETA that Defence Minister Rebas had welcomed his possible appointment to Estonia in addition to the other two Baltic states. "It would certainly be practical but the Estonian Foreign Ministry agreement would be needed first," he said.

The L-39 is armed with a twin 23mm cannon and has four underwing pylons for external stores, including air-to-air missiles. The wide range of air speed—from 160 to 950 km per hour—makes it suitable for a number of duties, including patrolling. Lithuania purchased four L-39 trainers from Russia last year.

NATO Official Ends Visit, Comments on Aid

LD1507164393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Excerpts] General Gary Johnson, commander in chief of NATO troops in Northern Europe, visited Estonia upon invitation from Defense Minister Hain Rebas so as to familiarize himself with the development of the Estonian Armed Forces and find out what practical help NATO could provide for Estonia in this sphere. General Johnson's three-day visit contained a visit to Kalev battalion and meetings with Estonian military and state leaders. At a meeting before his departure, Gary Johnson said that he left with the Estonian defense minister a list of proposals for practical measures that NATO could provide in support of Estonian defense forces. [passage omitted]

Among the proposals are offers for Estonian officers to take part as observers in NATO maneuvers, as well as invitations to conferences and seminars. The key idea is to familiarize Estonian defense forces with NATO's work style, which differs considerably from the traditions in the old Eastern Bloc. Another minor aspect is the designing of maps and also training and questions to do with discipline. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian Exercises

WS1607145393 Riga LETA in English 1123 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Riga, July 16 (LETA)—On Thursday [15 July] the Russian envoy and adviser of the Russian Federation's embassy in Riga, Valery Nesteruskin, was invited to the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deputy State Secretary on Eastern countries of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Aivars Vovers, handed over the note to Mr. Nesterushkin. The note read that the Russian command of the north-western troops had carried out military exercises of the commanding officers in Latvia's town of Dobele in spite of an unequivocal negative attitude to those exercises on the part of Latvia. Thus, the commanding officers of the north-western troops demonstrated once again irrespect to legal demands of Latvia's authorities. This casts doubt on readiness of the Russian party to constructive cooperation in the solution of the problem of Russian troops' withdrawal.

In addition, it was said in the note that the Latvian ministry had information that a group of officers had illegally arrived in Latvia during the time of the exercises. This also contradicts to all previously achieved agreements and will, naturally, hamper the process of further negotiations. The Latvian ministry attracted the Russian officials' attention to the fact that if similar action occurred the Republic of Latvia would have to take retaliatory measures, in particular, to toughen control of activities and movement of Russian military men on the territory of Latvia and to toughen the position of admittance of additional contingent of military men to the republic.

Khasbulatov Sends Congratulations to Gorbunovs

LD1607175493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Today Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh presented to Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the fifth Saeima, congratulations from the Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov on his election to the post. The letter expresses the conviction that the two countries' relations in such an important sphere as parliamentary links will develop in a favorable direction in the interests of the two countries' peoples.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Support for Estonia

WS1607145693 Riga LETA in English 1123 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Riga, July 16 (LETA)—On Thursday [15 July] the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that "in its statement of July 2 the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its anxiety concerning the attempts of Russia to secure changes in Estonia's legislation". Estonia's "Law on Foreigners" is implied.

The document reads that in spite of the made changes into the law the municipal councils of the Estonian towns of Narva and Sillamae have not given up the decision to carry out the referendum on national-territorial autonomy which contradicts the Republic of Estonia's constitution and the resolutions of the republic's authorities.

The statement reads that [words indistinct] by direct or indirect support of the known part of the Russian parliament and socially active members in Russia who cannot give up their imperial arrogance".

The statement also reads that the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports Estonia's constructive attempts "to solve problems inherited from the USSR in a civilized way". The Latvian Foreign Department attracts attention of organizers of the referendum and their supporters to the fact that such an anti-constitutional action won't solve a single problem, moreover, it will make the situation more complicated and will increase tension in relationship between the nations.

President Ulmanis Receives Estonian Ambassador

LD1507190793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Today Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis received Estonian Ambassador Leili Utno. During the meeting there was discussion of the draft law on foreigners worked out by the Estonian parliament. The Estonian ambassador emphasized that all minorities have equal rights, and therefore one cannot speak of the rights of an indigenous nation and also of rights to autonomy being allotted to one minority, as the Russian side in Estonia is demanding. And yet this question will be resolved in Estonia by holding a referendum on the possible assignation of autonomy to the Narva district.

The Estonian side believes that as soon as possible, all three Baltic states must meet with the three eastern states; that is, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. The Estonian side believes that the questions of the border regions and the sea borders must be coordinated at the level of all three Baltic countries. As soon as possible, first, the presidents of the two neighbor states must meet, but this can only occur after the referendum in Estonia and the election of the government in Latvia. Estonian Ambassador Leili Utno reminded him that the question of the historic site of the Estonian Embassy at Skolas iela 13 has still not been settled.

Saeima Approves Structure of New Cabinet

WS1607145793 Riga LETA in English 1123 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Riga, July 16 (LETA)—The Saeima or parliament of Latvia after a foot-dragging debates on Thursday [15 July] approved a draft legislation which provides for re-validate a law on the ministers cabinet of April 1, 1925. The parliament also adopted a law on amendments of the Saeima regulations, referring to performance of parliamentarian commissions.

In accordance to the newly-adopted law, other sidelines of the parliament the following commissions are to be set up: a foreign commission, a budget and finance commission, a juridical commission, a commission on human rights, a commission on education, culture and science, that of home affairs, a commission on state and local authorities, an environment and public affairs commission, an economic commission, a commission on agrarian and regional policy, that on social and employment affairs, a mandates and statements commission, a commission on inquiries, a revisional commission, a management commission, and that of national security.

Lithuania

President Defines Delegation's Authority in Russia Talks

WS1507142293 Tallinn BNS in English 1130 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Vilnius, July 14, BNS—Lithuanian President signed a decree Wednesday [14 July] on the authorizations of the state delegation negotiating with Russia.

The delegation, led by MP Virgilijus Bulovas, is authorized to determine Lithuania's positions at talks with Russia, to discuss them with the foreign minister and to present them for approval to the president. It also prepares or coordinates the preparation of draft agreements between Lithuania and Russia, holds talks on Lithuanian-Russian agreements with the Russian delegation, and forms expert groups.

The delegation's leader is authorized to initial the agreements negotiated with Russia.

According to the president's decree, ministries and other state services are commissioned to coordinate the draft agreements with the delegation and to follow its recommendations. State institutions are obliged to present all the necessary information and documents to the delegation and to inform it about all talks with Russian ministries and state services.

Head of Delegation Holds News Conference

WS1607140393 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1246 GMT 15 Jul 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 287]

[Text] 15 July 1993—The negotiations between Lithuania and Russia are still conducted on the expert's level. The date of meeting of Government's delegations will be coordinated through diplomatic channels. This was announced by the head of the Lithuanian delegation at negotiations Virgilijus Bulovas in the press-conference of July 14. The last and the only one meeting of the delegations after the Seimas elections was held in Vilnius in the end of May. None of the sides were satisfied with the results of the dialog started despite the assurances by the heads of both delegations that negotiations escaped from dead end after they had been deadlocked last autumn. Algirdas Brazauskas has later joined the negotiations process after having sent an amended project of the agreement on the army withdrawal to Boris Yeltsin. Signing this document was due in autumn of 1991 but was postponed for unknown reasons. The members of the team at negotiations said that President had not introduced a new text to them. Vytautas Landsbergis suspected in the press-conference last week that Algirdas Brazauskas and members of his team are conducting unofficial negotiations between Lithuania and Russia. Algirdas Brazauskas categorically denied this statement on TV last Friday. "We, as a president, state that double game does not exist. Everything is done openly and honestly, and that's how it will be in the future", he stressed. The head of the team at negotiations was affirming in the press-conference that President's amendments the project of the agreement includes no refusal to claim compensation for the harm caused to Lithuania and it's people. They merely clarify the principles of compensation in armament. The rest must be subject to interstate negotiations. The new edition would make the negotiations process easier, according to Virgilijus Bulovas, especially concerning economical agreements. President has signed the decree on July 14 concerning authorization of the state team at negotiations. Virgilijus Bulovas said that members of the team discussed with the President decree's project. It provides that team will prepare regulations for negotiations and will implement them upon the President's approval. It will also coordinate the work of all ministries and institutions in preparation of trade, economical, juridical and other agreements and treaties. Virgilijus Bulovas noted the absence of essential disagreements between the team's members and President.

Brazauskas Says No Need for Withdrawal Treaty With Russia

LD1607190693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 16 Jul—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said in a national television interview today that he has written to Russian head of state Boris Yeltsin about the question of their signing a comprehensive treaty on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic's territory.

He quoted from passages in the letter, which state that: "Six weeks remain before the final date for the pull-out of the Russian troops from Lithuania, which is proceeding successfully and on schedule. In these circumstances, I do not think there is any point in signing a treaty on the withdrawal. The subject is covered by the Lithuanian-Russian agreement of 8 September 1992, which is being fulfilled to the letter. In the future, the sides will need to settle such important issues as compensation for the damage inflicted on Lithuania and for the property of the Lithuanian army. I accept that there must also be negotiations on the problems of social guarantees for the Russian former servicemen still living in Lithuania and for the transit through Lithuanian territory of the troops of the former USSR that are being withdrawn from Germany."

He added that he had proposed that "in the very near future, all problems of mutual interest be discussed at the level of heads of state or of government, and a free trade agreement signed."

The Lithuanian leader rejected right-wing accusations that he is "constantly making concessions" at the talks with Russia. He said: "There is no question of concessions on matters of principle. What we are seeking is mutually-acceptable compromises with Russia. Incidentally, the Russian side is doing the same. This is the normal process of negotiation that is accepted in the civilized world. To talk constantly of concessions is to fail to understand the essence of the problem."

'Concern' Expressed Over Russian Stand on Latvia, Estonia

LD1707002293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2049 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius July 17 TASS—The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has expressed "concern about the decision by the Russian Supreme Soviet to discuss at its next session the denunciation of peace treaties between Russia and Latvia and Estonia of 1920."

In a statement broadcast by republican television on Friday, the ministry expressed the hope that Russia's decision "will not become an instrument of political pressure on these two Baltic states."

Plans on Helicopter Repair Plant With Russia Reviewed

WS1907101493 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 29 Jun 93 No. 123 p 7

[Article by Vytautas Kriksciunas: "Who Is Afraid of the Helicopter. On the Fate of one Lithuanian and Russian Enterprise"]

[Text] About 1,500 workers of the former Kaunas aircraft repair plant have been discussing their future for almost half a year. The leaders of the country and the city have also debated this issue. The question is: Will it be a Lithuanian and Russian joint venture or will it disappear after disbanding the Russian military unit?

This Russian military unit—the aircraft repair plant of the Russian Defense Ministry—has existed in Kaunas since 1944. This is the key plant for repairing all models of Mi-8 and Mi-17 and passenger helicopters. This is the only plant that supplies Egypt, Syria, India, Finland, China, Turkey and other foreign countries with repaired helicopters.

In November 1992, the Lithuanian Government proposed to Russia to set up a joint Lithuanian and Russian aircraft repair plant.

The idea was as follows: According to its structure, production capacity, and the workers' potential, this plant is suitable for the thorough repair of Mi-8 and Mi-7 helicopters and their mechanisms. Given its relations with Russian industrial enterprises and designers' organizations, and its good reputation among maintenance organizations and foreign customers, the plant could function normally and receive revenues in convertible currencies worth millions of dollars even under the current conditions. All this allows us to believe that its future work could also be normal.

Meanwhile, the city administration is concerned with political motives. It believes that it is impossible to establish an aircraft plant with Russia. The authorities are proposing a completely indefinite alternative—conversion of the plant, and civil production. What sort of production? Thus far, no one has answered this question.

What do the specialists claim?

In February, a group of French aviation industrialists and (C. Dereguel), French military attache to Lithuania, paid a visit to this plant. Having familiarized itself with its production basis and economic accounts, this group drew the conclusion that it would be unreasonable to reject the repair of Mi-8 and Mi-7 helicopters at such a well-equipped plant for political motives alone. "If a hen lays golden eggs, it should not be killed only for being ugly."

In April, a group of independent experts investigated the situation at the plant at the request of the president and the National Defense Ministry. This group included English Professor (A. Canvey) who is interested in the issue of converting the military and industrial complex, and Colonel (D. Holliday), British military attache to Lithuania. The experts arrived at the conclusion that the change of the plant's key production line would require rather large capital investments.

It is even impossible to retain the current line and begin repairing West European or American helicopters without investments of millions of dollars. The experts' opinion is that we should exploit the existing equipment and documentation, the structure of the plant, and ties with Russia and other states, and repair Mi-8 and Mi-7 helicopters together with Russia. We should accumulate capital and invest it into increasing the plant's capacity that would allow us to repair West European and American helicopters. We could get down to repairing them in about five or seven years.

Certainly, we could begin growing field mushrooms in the assembly shop (there were such proposals). However, this shop is 14 meters high, and it has a floor warming system: the price of field mushrooms will equal that of black caviar. We could paint law mowers in the hangars that require as much heating and energy as one residential block. However, the price of such a mower would reach that of a helicopter. We could propose an indefinite number of similar "alternatives" concerning this Lithuanian and Russian enterprise.

If one is associating this plant with the far-fetched aims of the Russian military administration, one is making a great mistake. One cannot call this military expansion, when additional jobs are being created in the foreign country, and when the latter receives a chance to repair part of helicopters meant for exports (together with a certain share of dividends in hard currency). Agreements provide for the transfer of these helicopters to Russian repair plants after the expiration of their guarantees. There are plans to set up a joint venture not with Russia's military structures, but with its State Asset Committee and other aircraft plants. Thus, it is not worth speaking about Russian military aims here.

Common sense and rational economic calculations make one believe that the proposal by the Lithuanian authorities to establish a joint Lithuanian and Russian aircraft repair plant promises undisputable benefits and does not pose any threat that the opponents speak of so much.

In any event, the Lithuania Government will have the last say here.

U.S. Ambassador Visits Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant

WS1507143993 Tallinn BNS in English 1132 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Vilnius, July 14, BNS—Darryl N. Johnson, U.S. ambassador to Lithuania, visited the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant in eastern Lithuania Tuesday [13 July].

Reports say the United States wants Lithuania to replace the "Chernobyl"-type reactors at Ignalina with modern American ones. The construction of Ignalina started in 1975.

According to the initial plan, it was supposed to become the most powerful producer of electricity in the world with four 1,500 megawatt reactors. The project was changed later and only two reactors were built. They started operating in 1983 and 1987. The power plant uses somewhat technically improved Chernobyl-type RBMK rectors and is the potentially most dangerous industrial unit in northern Europe. The power plant is under international surveillance due to various minor technical breakdowns.

According to reports from Ignalina, Viktor Shevaldin, the plant's director, told the U.S. ambassador that a primary problem is the storage of used nuclear fuel cartridges, since the local storage facilities are nearly full.

Johnson inquired about a missing nuclear fuel cartridge, which disappeared last spring. Shevaldin said one more place must be searched, but this will be possible only after the first reactor is shut down.

According to the schedule, maintenance repairs at the first reactor will start in mid-August. The reactor currently operates at half of its output because the demand for electricity is low. Maintenance repairs at the second reactor should be completed by the end of July.

The ambassador said he expects information about the necessary help because the plant's safety causes concern around the world.

Meanwhile, the government news agency ELTA says the Westinghouse Electric Corporation suggested Lithuania replace Ignalina's reactors with new ones, which are still in development. The proposal was made at a meeting in Warsaw last week, ELTA reported. The meeting was attended by vice ministers of energy from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The American 600 megawatt reactor would be completely safe and relatively cheap. The assembly of one reactor would cost around USD 100 million. America also has certain proposals regarding the possible sources of finance.

Poland Donates 'Gift' of Weapons to Army

LD1507150493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 15 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Shamshin]

[Text] Warsaw July 15 TASS—Poland handed over as gift to the Lithuanian Republic part of the Polish Army's weapons. Apart from firearms, ammunition and special technical equipment, the Lithuanian Army was donated 10 armored combat vehicles, which are to become a great help for the former Soviet republic's Armed Forces numbering 12,000 troops.

The handing-over ceremony was held in the settlement of Gruenwald on Thursday and was timed to coincide with the 583rd anniversary of the routing of the Teutonic order troops here. Addressing the Polish and Lithuanian servicemen participating in the ceremony, Polish Defence Minister Janusz Onyskiewicz stressed that the hand-over of the armaments to Lithuania should be regarded as a proof of complete trust in the neighbouring state.

Seimas Adopts Law on Armed Forces Leadership

LD1507191893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] A provisional law on the leadership of the armed forces of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted by the Lithuanian Seimas today.

The functions of the president in this sphere are defined by the document. The president is the head of the state armed forces and carries out the functions of heading the armed forces of the Republic as defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. He is responsible for the preparation of the state [words indistinct] organized armed aggression, appoints and dismisses leaders of the armed forces, officers, and also appoints officers to the posts of commanders of regiments and units. He also grants military ranks from the initial ranks up to the highest rank of colonel.

The functions of the minister of national defense are also defined by the law. [Passage indistinct] is the person who implements the state policy on defense and the armed forces of the country. His is accountable to the president of the republic, the chief commander of the armed forces of the Republic of Lithuania, and also to the Seimas and the prime minister according to the procedure defined by the Constitution and the laws.

The minister of national defense is responsible for the readiness of the national armed forces for defense in extreme and crisis situations. He is also responsible for the material and technical supply to the armed forces as well as managing the financial resources of the armed forces.

The law also indicates that in case of armed aggression against the Republic of Lithuania [passage indistinct] or in case of a crisis situation or state of emergency the commander of the Lithuanian armed forces is appointed by the president's decree.

The provisional law on the leadership of the Lithuanian armed forces also regulates the functions of the inspector general of the Lithuanian armed forces.

Defense Minister Opposes Law

WS1507142793 Tallinn BNS in English 1130 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Vilnius, July 14, BNS—Sharp disagreements occurred between Lithuanian Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius and authors of the draft Law on Army Leadership during debates in parliament Tuesday [13 July].

Butkevicius said he cannot agree with the proposed institution of a commander in chief. A serviceman should be an adviser to a politician, he said, but not a person who makes decisions, according to the principles of democratic control. The Constitution provides for "very wide authorizations" of a commander in chief, he said.

According to the draft law, prepared by the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, the commander in chief is the country's highest ranking military commander. He or she directs the head of the army headquarters, the brigade commanders, and other army command. The draft law makes the commander in chief subordinate to the defense minister.

Butkevicius said the responsibility for the army should not be divided, and the armed forces should be controlled by the minister. A two-fold command may cause unwanted conflicts in the armed forces, the minister said. Butkevicius has been in charge of Lithuania's defense since the restoration of independence.

Observers say the disagreements in the discussions on the draft law are the first public display of discord between the defense minister and the parliamentary majority.

The parliament will continue debates on the new law at upcoming sessions.